United Nations A/61/186

General Assembly

Distr.: General
26 July 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Item 64 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

Financial situation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Report of the Secretary-General

1. Pursuant to article 8, paragraph 6, of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX), annex), States parties shall be responsible for the expenses of the members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination while they are in performance of Committee duties.

2. In its resolution 47/111 of 16 December 1992, the General Assembly welcomed the decision taken at the Fourteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention in January 1992 to amend article 8 of the Convention, and requested the Secretary-General to take the appropriate measures to provide for the financing of the Committee from the regular budget of the United Nations, beginning with the budget for the biennium 1994-1995, and to take the necessary measures to ensure that the Committee met as scheduled until the amendment entered into force.

3. Acting in his capacity as depositary, the Secretary-General communicated the amendment to all States parties on 1 March 1993 (see annex I). It will be recalled that, at their Fourteenth Meeting, the States parties had decided that the amendment would enter into force when accepted by a two-thirds majority of States parties that had so notified the Secretary-General as depositary. As at 1 June 2006, notifications of acceptance had been received from 41 States parties to the Convention.

4. In section II of its resolution 59/176 of 20 December 2004, the General Assembly strongly urged States parties to the Convention to accelerate their domestic ratification procedures with regard to the amendment to the Convention concerning the financing of the Committee and to notify the Secretary-General expeditiously in writing of their agreement to the amendment; requested the Secretary-General to continue to ensure adequate financial arrangements and to provide the necessary support, including an adequate level of Secretariat assistance, to ensure the functioning of the Committee and to enable it to cope with its

* A/61/150.

06-44589 (E) 150806

increasing amount of work; and also requested him to invite those States parties that were in arrears to pay the amounts in arrears, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-first session.

5. Financing for the annual sessions of the Committee in 2005 and 2006 was provided from the regular budget, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/111. Consequently, no State party assessments were made in those two years. However, a number of States parties are still in arrears as a result of the non-payment of previous assessments. As at 1 June 2006, the total arrears outstanding amounted to $143,770.52 (see annex II).

Annex I

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination: approval by the General Assembly of the proposed amendment to article 8

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in his capacity as depositary, and with reference to depositary notification C.N.285.1991.TREATIES-4 of 20 December 1991, communicates the following:

2. It will be recalled that the States parties to the above-mentioned Convention, at the twenty-second meeting of the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties, held on 15 January 1992, decided as follows:

> 1. To replace paragraph 6 of article 8 of the Convention with the paragraph "The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall provide the necessary staff and facilities for the effective performance of the functions of the Committee under the Convention";
>
> 2. To add a new paragraph, as article 8, paragraph 7, as follows:
>
> "The members of the Committee established under the present Convention shall, with the approval of the General Assembly, receive emoluments from United Nations resources on such terms and conditions as the General Assembly may decide";
>
> ...
>
> 4. That the amendment shall enter into force when it has been approved by the General Assembly and accepted by a two-thirds majority of States parties which shall have so notified the Secretary-General as depositary.

3. The General Assembly endorsed the amendment at its forty-seventh session (resolution 47/111). In accordance with the above-quoted paragraph 4, it will enter into force when it is accepted by the required number of States parties which shall have so notified the Secretary-General.

Annex II

Status of contributions to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination as at 1 June 2006

(United States dollars)

State party	*Contributions payable as at 31 January 1993*	*1993 assessments*	*Total collections from 1993 to 2006 for 1993 and prior years*[a]	*Contributions payable as at 1 June 2006*
Afghanistan	1 348.00	877.00	—	2 225.00
Algeria	—	1 177.00	1 177.00	—
Antigua and Barbuda	—	877.00	877.00	—
Argentina	690.00	1 941.00	2 631.00	—
Australia	—	3 811.00	3 811.00	—
Austria	—	2 341.00	2 341.00	—
Bahamas	—	896.00	896.00	—
Bahrain	—	920.00	920.00	—
Bangladesh	876.00	877.00	1 753.00	—
Barbados	362.00	877.00	1 239.00	—
Belarus	1 426.00	1 869.00	—	3 295.00
Belgium	—	2 900.00	2 900.00	—
Bolivia	362.00	877.00	—	1 239.00
Botswana	—	877.00	877.00	—
Brazil	1 792.00	4 056.00	5 848.00	—
Bulgaria	431.00	1 104.00	1 535.00	—
Burkina Faso	6 629.83	877.00	—	7 506.83
Burundi	8 899.00	877.00	—	9 776.00
Cambodia	2 244.00	877.00	—	3 121.00
Cameroon	942.04	877.00	—	1 819.04
Canada	7 004.00	—	7 004.00	—
Cape Verde	7 162.00	877.00	—	8 039.00
Central African Republic	7 783.89	877.00	—	8 660.89
Chad	211.40	877.00	—	1 088.40
Chile	1 006.00	1 015.00	2 021.00	—
China	—	2 367.00	2 367.00	—
Colombia	(0.09)	1 109.00	1 109.00	(0.09)
Congo	2 597.00	877.00	—	3 474.00
Costa Rica	3 909.86	872.00	4 867.88	(186.02)
Côte d'Ivoire	1 937.00	896.00	2 813.34	19.66
Cuba	—	1 035.00	1 035.00	—
Cyprus	—	896.00	896.00	—
Czech Republic[b]	—	(502.00)	—	(502.00)

State party	*Contributions payable as at 31 January 1993*	*1993 assessments*	*Total collections from 1993 to 2006 for 1993 and prior years*[a]	*Contributions payable as at 1 June 2006*
Democratic Republic of the Congo[c]	(45.00)	877.00	—	832.00
Denmark	—	2 122.00	2 122.00	—
Dominican Republic	3 523.00	892.00	—	4 415.00
Ecuador	913.00	916.00	1 829.00	—
Egypt	—	994.00	994.00	—
El Salvador	7 162.00	877.00	—	8 039.00
Estonia	—	1 205.00	—	1 205.00
Ethiopia	(514.00)	877.00	363.00	—
Fiji	362.00	877.00	1 239.00	—
Finland	—	2 007.00	2 007.00	—
France	—	12 590.00	12 590.00	—
Gabon	892.00	892.00	—	1 784.00
Gambia	7 831.00	877.00	—	8 708.00
Germany	—	18 294.00	18 294.00	—
Ghana	—	877.00	877.00	—
Greece	—	1 524.00	1 524.00	—
Guatemala	1 389.20	896.00	2 285.20	—
Guinea	903.80	877.00	—	1 780.80
Guyana	—	877.00	877.00	—
Haiti	1 750.00	877.00	—	2 627.00
Holy See	—	877.00	877.00	—
Hungary	—	1 199.00	1 199.00	—
Iceland	—	916.00	916.00	—
India	—	1 562.00	1 562.00	—
Iran, Islamic Republic of	—	2 411.00	2 411.00	—
Iraq	(248.92)	1 117.00	868.08	—
Israel	1 949.00	1 320.00	3 269.00	—
Italy	(1.00)	9 456.00	9 456.00	(1.00)
Jamaica	362.00	877.00	1 239.00	—
Jordan	—	877.00	877.00	—
Kuwait	501.00	1 332.00	1 833.00	—
Lao People's Democratic Republic	—	877.00	877.00	—
Latvia	—	1 322.00	1 322.00	—
Lebanon	4 822.00	877.00	5 699.00	—
Lesotho	1 348.00	877.00	2 225.00	—
Liberia	7 139.00	877.00	—	8 016.00
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	2 053.00	1 313.00	3 366.00	—

State party	Contributions payable as at 31 January 1993	1993 assessments	Total collections from 1993 to 2006 for 1993 and prior years[a]	Contributions payable as at 1 June 2006
Luxembourg	—	975.00	975.00	—
Madagascar	901.87	877.00	1 889.82	(110.95)
Maldives	—	877.00	877.00	—
Mali	9 850.00	877.00	—	10 727.00
Malta	—	877.00	877.00	—
Mauritania	2 285.00	877.00	—	3 162.00
Mauritius	—	877.00	877.00	—
Mexico	—	2 567.00	2 567.00	—
Mongolia	876.00	877.00	1 753.00	—
Morocco	—	912.00	912.00	—
Mozambique	5 097.00	877.00	5 974.00	—
Nepal	876.00	877.00	1 753.00	—
Netherlands	—	3 750.00	3 750.00	—
New Zealand	—	1 331.00	1 331.00	—
Nicaragua	2 243.00	877.00	4 000.00	(879.00)
Niger	2 750.00	877.00	—	3 627.00
Nigeria	1 899.00	1 251.00	3 150.00	—
Norway	115.00	1 941.00	1 926.00	—
Pakistan	0.01	978.00	978.01	—
Panama	1 122.00	896.00	2 018.00	—
Papua New Guinea	362.00	877.00	1 214.00	25.00
Peru	2 469.00	975.00	3 444.00	—
Philippines	(211.11)	986.00	774.89	—
Poland	610.00	1 744.00	2 354.00	—
Portugal	—	1 260.00	1 260.00	—
Qatar	393.00	955.00	1 348.00	—
Republic of Korea	—	2 425.00	2 425.00	—
Romania	1 819.00	1 184.00	3 003.00	—
Russian Federation	18 149.00	12 750.00	30 899.00	—
Rwanda	876.00	877.00	—	1 753.00
Saint Lucia	—	877.00	877.00	—
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	6 637.00	877.00	—	7 514.00
Senegal	1816.191	877.00	69.00	18.191
Seychelles	876.00	877.00	666.14	1 086.86
Sierra Leone	8 659.00	877.00	—	9 536.00
Slovenia	—	1 205.00	1 205.00	—
Solomon Islands	2 244.00	877.00	3 121.00	—
Somalia	7 028.00	877.00	—	7 905.00

State party	*Contributions payable as at 31 January 1993*	*1993 assessments*	*Total collections from 1993 to 2006 for 1993 and prior years*[a]	*Contributions payable as at 1 June 2006*
Spain	—	4 777.00	4 777.00	—
Sri Lanka	—	877.00	877.00	—
Sudan	3 510.00	877.00	—	4 387.00
Suriname	3 084.00	877.00	3 961.00	—
Swaziland	362.00	877.00	1 239.00	—
Sweden	—	3 003.00	3 003.00	—
Syrian Arab Republic	385.00	936.00	1 321.00	—
Togo	1 367.04	877.00	—	2 244.04
Tonga	798.00	877.00	—	1 675.00
Trinidad and Tobago	820.17	955.00	1 775.17	—
Tunisia	—	916.00	916.00	—
Uganda	362.00	877.00	1 239.00	—
Ukraine	3 026.00	4 820.00	7 846.00	—
United Arab Emirates	—	1 280.00	1 280.00	—
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	—	10 836.00	10 836.00	—
United Republic of Tanzania	1 898.00	877.00	—	2 775.00
Uruguay	385.00	936.00	1 321.00	—
Venezuela	—	1 788.00	2 933.47	(1 145.47)
Viet Nam	2 244.00	877.00	3 121.00	—
Yemen	924.00	877.00	—	1 801.00
Zambia	12 146.88[b]	877.00	201.40[c]	(1 471.28)[d]
Zimbabwe	993.00	1 093.00	—	2 086.00
Total[e]	**194 695.92**	**215 902.00**	**266 827.40**	**143 770.52**
Former Yugoslavia	1 435.00	1 122.00	—	2 557.00

[a] In accordance with records of the Contributions Service as at 1 June 2006.

[b] An amount of $502.00, which represents the surplus of the 1993 contribution made by the former Czechoslovakia, has been reimbursed to the Governments of the Czech Republic ($334.00) and Slovakia ($168.00).

[c] Effective 17 May 1997, Zaire was renamed Democratic Republic of the Congo.

[d] Including credits held in suspense account totalling $3,226.86 in favour of six States parties of which:

$1,471.28 has been reimbursed to the Government of Zambia.

$502.00 has been reimbursed to the Governments of the Czech Republic ($334.00) and Slovakia ($168.00).

$1 written off to the Government of Italy.

United Nations A/61/187

General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 July 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Item 54 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Globalization and interdependence: international migration and development

Summary of informal interactive hearings of the General Assembly with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector

Note by the President of the General Assembly

The President of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly has the honour, in accordance with paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 60/227 of 23 December 2005, to transmit herewith the summary of the informal interactive hearings of the General Assembly with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector, held on 12 July 2006 at United Nations Headquarters.

* A/61/150.

06-44786 (E) 170806

Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Introduction	1–7	3
II.	Key findings	8–22	3
III.	Interactive segment on promoting a comprehensive rights-based approach to international migration, and ensuring respect for and protection of the human rights of all migrants and their families	23–39	7
	A. Promoting a rights-based approach to international migration	23–25	7
	B. Gender	26	8
	C. Participation of civil society	27	8
	D. Consultative forum on international migration and development	28	8
	E. Ratification of United Nations human rights instruments	29	8
IV.	Interactive segment on international migration and development: challenges for social and economic policies in sending and receiving countries	30–64	9
	A. Root causes of international migration	30	9
	B. Linkages between migration and development	31–41	9
	C. The importance of a rights-based approach to international migration for development	42–55	12
	D. Intergovernmental cooperation on international migration and the role of civil society	56–60	14
	E. Improvement of the evidence base	61–64	15
V.	Interactive segment on policy responses: promoting the building of partnerships and capacity-building and the sharing of best practices at all levels, including the bilateral and regional levels, for the benefit of countries and migrants alike	65–76	16
	A. Improved cooperation: the role of major stakeholders	65–71	16
	B. Intergovernmental cooperation	72–76	17
Annex			19

I. Introduction

1. The informal interactive hearings of the General Assembly with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector were held on 12 July 2006, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/227 of 23 December 2005.

2. The hearings were organized by the President of the General Assembly in consultation with Member States and representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector. The hearings were part of the preparatory process for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development to be held during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly on 14-15 September 2006 in New York.

3. The President of the General Assembly established a task force composed of representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society networks and the private sector to advise him on the preparation of the hearings.

4. The hearings were attended by Member States and observers, representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector. About 240 representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector participated in the hearings; 94 Member States also attended.

5. The hearings were divided into three topics: (a) promoting a comprehensive rights-based approach to international migration, and ensuring respect for and protection of the human rights of all migrants and their families; (b) international migration and development: challenges for social and economic policies in sending and receiving countries; and (c) policy responses: promoting the building of partnerships and capacity-building and the sharing of best practices at all levels, including the bilateral and regional levels, for the benefit of countries and migrants alike.

6. The hearings were opened by the Acting President of the General Assembly. His statement was followed by the statements made by the Deputy Secretary-General and Peter Sutherland, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development. The programme of the hearings is annexed.

7. The hearings constituted the first opportunity for Member States, within the framework of the General Assembly, to interact with representatives of civil society and the private sector in a discussion of the challenges and opportunities that international migration has brought to development.

II. Key findings

8. **The hearings demonstrated the strong commitment of Member States, observers, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector to collaborate in making the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development a success. There was a widely held view that international migration, development and human rights were**

intrinsically interconnected and that the High-level Dialogue presented a unique opportunity to make progress in maximizing the benefits of international migration, while addressing the challenges it posed and taking measures to reduce its negative impacts.

9. Participants emphasized the need for a rights-based approach in addressing the interrelations between international migration and development. Respect for the human rights of all migrants, regardless of status, was viewed as the cornerstone of any policy related to the international movement of people. Explicit consideration of human rights issues was viewed as crucial with respect to international migration movements, especially to reduce the vulnerability of certain groups of migrants, such as children, youth, women, indigenous peoples and migrants in irregular situations. Respect and protection of human rights were also seen as essential to promote the successful integration of migrants in the receiving countries and to ensure the best possible outcomes of labour migration. A rights-based approach implied the recognition of the full dignity of migrants and of their fundamental contribution to countries of origin and destination.

10. The hearings underscored that Governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, including migrant organizations, and the private sector all had a role to play in protecting the rights of migrants and in ensuring that international migration had a positive impact on development. Member States were urged to ratify all the core human rights instruments and, in particular, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. They were also enjoined to become parties to relevant International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions, particularly No. 97 on migration for employment and No. 143 on migrant workers. Countries that were already parties to relevant human rights instruments were urged to ensure their full implementation.

11. It was thought important to make better use and build upon the work of the human rights machinery of the United Nations to prevent or redress violations of the rights of migrants. Particular mention was made of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Realization of the international commitments embodied in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the ILO Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration that followed it, as well as in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, were also thought to be crucial in ensuring the benefits of international migration.

12. The positive impact of international migration was underscored, noting that migration could contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals when supported by coordinated policies and cooperation among countries of destination, countries of origin and countries of transit. The migrants

themselves, by creating social ties and transnational networks, were recognized as central agents in this process.

13. The importance of remittances was recognized and participants called for greater efforts to maximize their development potential. Policy measures should include ways and means to facilitate the flow of remittances and enhance the capacity of migrants to save and pursue productive investment. To that end, it was necessary to extend the reach of financial institutions in developing countries, including those focusing on microfinance, and to take appropriate measures to minimize the high costs of transferring remittances. Measures to support or promote entrepreneurship, especially among young people, in countries of origin were thought useful. Participants underscored that remittances were private money and should not be viewed as a substitute for official development assistance.

14. Noting that women and girls accounted for about half of all international migrants today, emphasis was placed on the need for a gender-sensitive approach in formulating international migration policies and addressing the linkages between international migration and development. Participants underscored that policies and other measures should aim at empowering female migrants and increasing their contribution to the development of countries of origin and destination. It was noted, however, that in many circumstances, female migrants were more vulnerable to exploitation and abuse than male migrants, and it was important to take effective measures to protect them. In this regard, women who were victims of trafficking were in particular need of protection and assistance that should not be conditional on their participation in the prosecution of traffickers. Migrant women who engaged in domestic service were also singled out as a group in particular need of protection.

15. It was also felt that the social consequences of international migration deserved more attention. In this respect, the prospects of migrant children and young persons in the country of destination were of particular concern. The impact of separation on families and children resulting from migration also deserved more attention, as did the changes of family structures induced by migration in societies with high rates of emigration. The integration of migrants in the receiving countries was considered a fundamental issue involving the responsibility of all parties. Successful integration facilitated the positive contribution that migrants could make to the development of their own countries. The integration of young people in countries of destination, including via access to education, health care and information about disease prevention, would increase their positive contributions to receiving societies.

16. The hearings addressed issues related to the emigration of highly skilled workers from developing countries. It was observed that, especially in low-income countries, the loss of highly skilled workers, especially those in the health and education sectors, had decreased the quality of those services. In some cases, the emigration of skilled personnel was eroding the human capital of countries of origin, with potentially dire consequences for their long-term stability and sustainable development. The return of highly skilled migrants was regarded as very desirable, since it could contribute to the economic dynamism and development of countries of origin.

17. The hearings highlighted the contributions of transnational communities, that is, communities established in two countries and linked by migration to the development of communities of origin. The High-level Dialogue was viewed as an important opportunity to recognize and underscore the different ways in which transnational communities could enhance the development prospects of countries of origin.

18. The need for policies and programmes to promote reintegration for returning migrants and to facilitate the use of the skills that migrants acquired abroad was underscored. To promote return, countries of origin were encouraged to facilitate investment and the creation of small businesses. Improved understanding of the various ways in which skilled migrants could contribute to the development of their countries of origin could help in formulating appropriate policies to encourage and facilitate their return.

19. It was noted that countries of origin and relevant partners should work together to provide opportunities for all citizens to achieve sustainable livelihoods. Access to more and decent jobs would make migration a voluntary option, not a necessity.

20. The participation of migrants in trade unions and migrant organizations and collaboration with the private sector were identified as crucial to all aspects of labour migration. The importance of a social dialogue to ensure citizen support for migration policies and a better reflection of the views of all stakeholders on policy development were underscored. Governments were encouraged to cooperate with the private sector and civil society to improve the situation of migrant workers and their families and to foster a more positive perception of the contributions that migrants made to the host society.

21. There was widespread agreement on the need for a better understanding of the relationship between international migration, development and human rights. The importance of more timely and accurate data about migrant flows and more detailed information on the characteristics of international migrants, including their age, sex, level of educational attainment and occupation, was underscored. It was recognized that sufficient funding had to be allocated to build technical infrastructure and develop the appropriate expertise. Capacity-building initiatives supported by intergovernmental cooperation, including South-South cooperation, were welcomed.

22. Participants felt that any future consultations on the issue of international migration and development should include the effective participation of migrants themselves, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector. Several participants pointed out, in describing the operation of the consultative forum proposed by the Secretary-General, that it was stated in his report[1] that civil society would participate when Member States deemed it "desirable and appropriate". Participants stressed that the forum should include the participation of all stakeholders and thus benefit from the expertise and experience that civil society and the private sector could bring to a discussion of international migration and development.

[1] A/60/871.

III. Interactive segment on promoting a comprehensive rights-based approach to international migration, and ensuring respect for and protection of the human rights of all migrants and their families

A. Promoting a rights-based approach to international migration

23. Participants underscored the need to ensure the protection, promotion and fulfilment of the human rights of all migrants, in particular the right to decent work, that is, work that would provide sufficient remuneration and acceptable working conditions. It was argued that in some cases individuals were compelled to migrate because their human rights were curtailed or violated in their countries of origin. The universal respect and protection of human rights would make migration truly voluntary and could reduce the incidence of irregular migration. Mention was made of the seven core human rights instruments, which included the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. The other six instruments established the rights of all persons and hence applied also to international migrants. Most countries had ratified at least one of those instruments and were therefore legally bound to apply them.

24. Participants stressed that the human rights machinery of the United Nations had an important role to play in ensuring that the rights of migrants were respected. Participants mentioned, in particular, the important role played by the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants and of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. Some participants suggested that these mechanisms for redress should be strengthened. Also mentioned were the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, which oversaw the implementation of human rights instruments that applied to all persons, including international migrants. Participants further stressed that the international commitments embodied in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the ILO Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration, which followed it, as well as in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance needed to be fulfilled.

25. Participants thought, in reviewing the linkages between international migration and development, that consideration of human rights was necessary. Some participants felt that the report of the Secretary-General should have placed stronger emphasis on human rights. A related concern was that temporary labour migration programmes typically curtailed the rights of migrants and were therefore far from ideal as a legal channel for labour migration. Similarly, the movement of natural persons under mode 4 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services was discussed in terms of trade without due regard to the human rights dimension. It was emphasized that respecting the human rights of all migrant workers, especially those rights related to employment and the right to form or join trade unions, was beneficial for all. Without such protections, the conditions of work of both migrants and local workers were likely to be undermined.

B. Gender

26. While recognizing that migrant women had much to contribute to their countries of destination and origin, participants stressed that women who migrated were more likely than those who did not to fall prey to exploitation or abuse, particularly sexual abuse and gender-based violence. Participants therefore called on Governments to ensure that policies and regulations supported the empowerment of migrant women and that special attention be given to specific measures to protect them from abuse. The importance of ratifying and implementing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was stressed, recognizing that the low status of women in certain countries was a root cause of international migration and that the status of female migrants was closely related to that of all women in countries of destination and origin.

C. Participation of civil society

27. Participants emphasized that non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, including migrant organizations and trade unions, and the private sector were all key actors in the development process and indispensable partners in ensuring that the benefits of international migration for development might be realized. Their contributions, perspectives and experience would therefore be an important input for the High-level Dialogue and would have to be taken into account in any follow-up to it.

D. Consultative forum on international migration and development

28. In his report on international migration and development, the Secretary-General recommended the creation of a consultative forum in which Member States could discuss international migration and development issues with a view to exchanging information, identifying best practices and forging partnerships for cooperation. Participants expressed their support for a follow-up to the High-level Dialogue and considered that the proposed consultative forum had merit. They suggested that the proposed forum should also include the participation of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, including migrant organizations and trade unions, and the private sector. It was felt that opening the forum to the participation of all stakeholders would strengthen it by ensuring that a wider range of experience was taken into account. Wider participation might also permit the forum to build linkages with the non-State actors most interested in moving forward with any novel ideas or initiatives that the forum might help shape. Participants added that, to assure that the forum approached migration issues in a comprehensive way, it should welcome the participation of all organizations whose activities were relevant to migration, not just the entities belonging to the Global Migration Group.

E. Ratification of United Nations human rights instruments

29. Participants expressed concern that relatively few Member States had ratified the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. Several participants urged Member States to ratify

the Convention and other core human rights instruments and to implement them. Some participants noted that the Secretary-General's report on international migration and development did not contain an explicit call for the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. They recalled at the same time that the Secretary-General had urged the ratification of this and other instruments on several occasions and welcomed the special treaty event planned to coincide with the High-level Dialogue. The treaty event would promote ratification of all international instruments relative to "crossing borders", including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

IV. Interactive segment on international migration and development: challenges for social and economic policies in sending and receiving countries

A. Root causes of international migration

30. It was noted that asymmetries between countries in terms of levels of development and labour market needs were a root cause of international migration. Participants also pointed out that globalization and improved communication technologies, which had resulted in stronger business and cultural linkages among countries, had led to increased international mobility. Demographic trends and especially differences between countries in terms of age structures were identified as an additional factor leading to migration. In addition, some people, particularly the highly skilled, migrated to take advantage of greater training opportunities abroad. To ensure that international migration resulted from voluntary choices, participants urged all countries to create conditions that would permit all citizens to forge sustainable livelihoods. It was recognized that the failure of many developing countries to generate sufficient and decent jobs was an important cause of international migration. Although international migration could contribute to palliate the negative consequences of deficient job creation, participants stressed that it should not be considered as a strategy to promote development.

B. Linkages between migration and development

1. Economic impact of migration at the global level

31. The positive impact of migration was underscored by several participants who noted that international migration could contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals, provided it was guided by policies based on a human rights approach and on cooperation between countries of destination, countries of origin and countries of transit. It was argued, however, that international migration should not be viewed as a long-term development strategy.

2. Impact of remittances, reducing remittance transfer costs and leveraging remittances

32. A number of participants underscored the importance of remittances and called for greater efforts to maximize their development potential, stressing that remittances were private transfers that benefited primarily the families that received them. It was observed that in some countries, the cost of remitting money exceeded 20 per cent of the total amount transferred. Therefore, there was an urgent need to lower these transfer costs since such reductions could contribute significantly to increasing the funds that actually reached the families of migrants. It was recognized that countries of origin could take proactive action to enhance the development impact of migrants' contributions and savings, particularly by collaborating with the private sector to widen access by migrants and their families to financial institutions, including microcredit institutions. These institutions could, in turn, provide an array of financial services, including savings accounts and loans. Civil society organizations could also play an important role by, for example, promoting financial literacy among migrant families and providing advice and support for entrepreneurship. Access to such support was a means of leveraging the benefits of remittances for development. Participants stressed that in no case should remittances be considered a substitute for official development assistance.

3. Highly skilled migration

33. Participants underscored the importance of finding ways of minimizing the negative consequences of highly skilled migration from developing countries, particularly low-income countries. Of special concern was the outflow of highly skilled workers in the health and education sectors whose departure compromised both the quantity and quality of services in the countries of origin. Insufficient Government funding for those sectors was recognized as contributing to the emigration of their highly skilled personnel.

34. Noting that, in the modern world, human capital was necessary for the achievement of sustained and sustainable development, participants underscored the importance of fostering the voluntary return of highly skilled migrants. It was acknowledged that countries of origin needed to provide an enabling environment so that returning migrants could use their skills to foster development. Countries of origin were urged to implement measures to retain the highly skilled by ensuring equitable pay and decent working conditions. Receiving countries were encouraged to cooperate with countries of origin by supporting human capital formation and ensuring that a sufficient number of workers were trained to replace the highly skilled who had migrated.

35. Countries were urged to adopt codes of conduct regarding the recruitment of highly skilled migrants so as to ensure that emigration did not aggravate the skill shortages in low-income countries.

4. Transnational communities

36. Participants acknowledged that transnational communities and networks could contribute to the development of both communities of residence and those of origin. It was suggested that the United Nations could be more proactive in engaging the support of transnational communities in fostering development. In particular, the High-level Dialogue could serve as a catalyst for the greater participation of

transnational communities in development activities. To that end, it was necessary to assess the effectiveness of different types of programmes and development projects that had involved transnational communities. Participants noted that the engagement of transnational communities with countries of origin could be facilitated by policies such as the recognition of dual citizenship or the granting of voting rights to citizens living abroad. It was also suggested that countries of origin and countries of destination could increase support to migrant-led transnational enterprises, thereby creating jobs in both countries of origin and countries of destination and promoting co-development.

5. Policies to promote a successful return

37. Participants considered that migrants who returned voluntarily to their countries could be agents of development, provided that policies in countries of origin facilitated the transfer of funds, access to loans and the setting up of small businesses. Governments were urged to cooperate with the private sector in establishing reintegration programmes for returning migrants that included finding employment opportunities for them. These programmes could foster entrepreneurship by assisting in the setting up of small businesses and providing either a share of the financing needed or facilitating the access of migrants to credit institutions.

38. Participants noted that international cooperation was necessary to address the challenges that involuntary migrant returns posed to the country of origin. Support for reintegration programmes was needed to minimize the negative consequences of such returns on the countries of origin and for the migrants themselves.

6. Coherence of policies on international migration and development

39. The need for greater coherence between international migration and development policies was underscored. Participants suggested that international migration should be part of poverty reduction strategies. There was a call for countries of origin to fully incorporate strategies for harnessing the benefits of international migration into development policies and to include consideration of international migration and its consequences in any bilateral negotiations on development cooperation involving countries of origin and destination.

40. A participant pointed out that there were many contradictions in the way countries dealt with international migration issues. For instance, while developed countries needed migrant workers, they were reluctant to regularize the status of large segments of the migrant population working in their territory.

41. To ensure that both policies and practice safeguarded the rights of migrants, it was suggested that Governments ought to regulate and monitor the activities of recruitment agencies. Establishing a mandatory code of conduct relating to recruitment and placement of workers abroad was considered a useful strategy in this regard. Recruitment agencies often provided guidance and basic training for migrant workers before they were posted abroad. The provision of training and information was felt to be useful, particularly if it presented a realistic view of the working conditions abroad and information on the rights and responsibilities of migrants in the receiving country. Participants agreed that Governments could do more to disseminate information about migration procedures and consular services

and to raise awareness about the risks involved in international migration, especially undertaken at the margins of the law.

C. The importance of a rights-based approach to international migration for development

1. Rights of migrants

42. Participants stressed that, in considering the interlinkages between international migration and development, it was important to make explicit that migrants were not commodities and that, as persons, they had intrinsic rights that States had the responsibility to respect, protect and promote. This perspective implied that the formulation of migration policies had to be underpinned by a people-centred approach that considered how best to safeguard the civil, political, economic, cultural and social rights of international migrants.

43. Some participants focused on those migrants who were denied equal protection under the law. Participants stressed the importance of providing migrants with legal recourse when they were unjustly treated or suffered injuries because of being constrained to work in dangerous conditions. Participants stressed that it was important for all migrants to have access to redress mechanisms and to have freedom of association since, without effective means of combating exploitative practices, not only the migrants themselves but also the host society would have to bear the negative consequences of those deplorable practices.

44. The importance of incorporating workers' rights into labour policies and trade agreements relating to international migrants, as well as that of including the right to organize and join trade unions in host countries, was underscored. Participants noted, in this regard, that temporary worker programmes often curtailed the rights of migrants and sundered families.

2. Vulnerable groups: migrant women, migrant children and indigenous peoples

Female migrants

45. Participants noted that female migrants, particularly those in an irregular situation and those engaged in certain occupations (e.g., domestic workers, entertainers, sex workers, etc.) tended to be more vulnerable than male migrants to exploitation by employers and others. In particular, women who were victims of trafficking required protection and assistance.

46. More generally, female migrants were often the subject of double discrimination, as foreigners in the host society and as women. Consequently, they were more likely than other women to experience discrimination in the workplace, barriers to decent employment, unequal pay for the work performed or violence inside the home. Despite these handicaps, migrant women were increasingly recognized as key players in ensuring the welfare of their families and important agents of development in their own right. These roles could be enhanced by a supporting policy and institutional environment that would promote the empowerment of female migrants. Key measures in this regard would include providing effective safeguards against discrimination and abuse, redress in case of

06-44785

the latter and support for the participation of migrant women in trade unions and community affairs.

Migrant children

47. Migrant children, especially those who crossed borders without being accompanied by adult relatives, constituted another vulnerable group. Participants urged Governments to devise policies to ensure that unaccompanied minors, especially those who entered a country without authorization or were victims of trafficking, were accorded appropriate assistance and protection, as well as support to be reunited with their families. It was suggested that a legal framework for the protection of unaccompanied children could be established.

48. With respect to migrant children living with their families, the main issue identified by participants was their socialization and integration into the host society, and ways to ensure that they had equal opportunities as other children with regard to access to education and basic services. It was felt that all children, regardless of their migrant status, should be entitled to free primary education.

49. Some participants observed that the separation of children from one or both parents as a result of migration could have detrimental effects on their social and emotional development. The greater access to material goods as a result of remittances did not always counterbalance the effects of long separations from parents. Some participants also pointed out that migration policies needed to take account of the impact of migration on family and societal structures.

Indigenous peoples

50. Some participants focused on the plight of indigenous peoples, particularly those forced to move from their ancestral lands by development projects, the exploitation of resources by private companies or conflict. This situation often deprived them of sustainable livelihoods and resulted in poverty, ultimately contributing to their internal displacement or to their migration abroad. International cooperation and engagement were needed to protect the communal rights of indigenous peoples to their ancestral domains. A participant called on countries of destination to acknowledge and respect the rights of indigenous people to maintain their customs and practices.

3. Young migrants

51. Participants noted that young people (aged 18 to 34 years) constituted the largest group of international migrants and were frequently the most dynamic group within migrant communities. Young people could therefore play a key role in linking transnational communities with countries of origin. Participants suggested that more could be done to use the expertise and dynamism of young people, especially those educated abroad and the second generation, to assist in the development of countries of origin. Governments of countries of origin might consider taking proactive steps to engage the younger generation of expatriates and explore ways of providing them with opportunities to work constructively with the society of origin.

52. It was noted that conducting information campaigns could facilitate the social and cultural integration of young migrants, as would ensuring their access to

education, health care and information about disease prevention. Some participants argued that, given the large number of young migrants, it would be advisable to involve them in the formulation of policies that concerned them.

4. Migrants in an irregular situation

53. Participants argued that restrictive migration policies contributed to increasing irregular migration. Also contributing to the upward trend in irregular migration were the cumbersome and lengthy renewal procedures involved in managing temporary labour migration. The fact that migrants in an irregular situation were more vulnerable to exploitation and abuse and usually did not have access to appropriate mechanisms of redress was stressed. Participants were concerned by policies that emphasized border protection and the apprehension, deportation or criminalization of irregular migrants. Participants noted that irregular migration responded to shortages of low-skilled workers in countries of destination. Under those circumstances, participants felt that policies to address irregular migration ought to take a holistic approach and that regularization programmes should be one of the policy tools considered. It was felt that access to basic public services, including health care and education, should be extended to all migrants regardless of status.

5. Integration of international migrants

54. Many participants identified integration and non-discrimination as key elements for ensuring that migrants made a positive contribution to countries of origin and destination. Participants noted that many host countries were dealing with the challenges posed by migrant integration. In this regard, Governments would benefit from maintaining an open dialogue with civil society organizations, including migrant associations and trade unions, and the private sector. Participants recognized that there was as yet no template to achieve successful integration and suggested that international dialogue could help identify best practices in this regard.

55. Participants observed that transnational communities were better able to contribute to the country of origin when they were well integrated into the host society. In this regard, a focus on younger migrants and the descendants of earlier waves of migrants was considered imperative. These groups represented the future for both the societies of origin and those of destination: in a few years they would be deciding whether to continue forging ties with the countries or communities of origin. It was therefore considered important for countries of origin to maintain and reinforce ties with young migrants and children of migrants.

D. Intergovernmental cooperation on international migration and the role of civil society

56. A number of participants acknowledged the need to foster international cooperation and several welcomed the proposal of the Secretary-General to establish an intergovernmental consultative forum. It was strongly suggested that the forum, if created, should make provisions for the active participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector.

57. One participant inquired whether the High-level Dialogue would examine ways to lower the transfer costs of remittances. It was suggested that financial institutions and banks should also participate in the High-level Dialogue.

58. The importance of regional and South-South cooperation was underscored. The need to remove impediments to South-South migration was also noted, and one participant remarked that it was sometimes easier to migrate from Africa to Europe than to migrate within Africa.

59. The role of civil society in building partnerships, implementing programmes, reporting on experience gained and discussing best practices was considered essential. Member States acknowledged the importance of civil society and related instances of consultations that Governments had had with civil society representatives in developing policies or programmes related to international migration.

60. The private sector was also acknowledged as playing a key role in shaping international migration policies. It was suggested that Governments call on the private sector to cooperate in improving the situation of migrant workers and their families. Representatives of the private sector reported that many businesses depended on migrant workers and that employers in the formal sector were committed to respecting the rights of migrant workers as established by law. Some representatives of private sector organizations noted that cumbersome regulations often hindered or impeded the legal hiring of migrant workers and therefore acted as a barrier for enhanced productivity. A representative of a private sector organization offered its services to assist in drafting model national legislation on international migration. A participant reported that the International Organization for Migration had established a business advisory board. A proposal for the development of a charter of corporate social responsibility to make more effective the engagement of the business sector in international migration issues was put forward. Such a charter would reaffirm the rights of migrant workers and call for them to receive equitable remuneration, retirement and social benefits, and generally equal treatment as that of local workers.

E. Improvement of the evidence base

61. Several participants highlighted the need for a better understanding of the interrelations between international migration, development and human rights. The importance of more timely and accurate data about international migrant flows and more detailed information on the characteristics of international migrants, including their age, sex, level of educational attainment and occupation, was underscored. Participants considered that such information was crucial for the formulation of migration policies.

62. Participants called for more empirical research on the interface between international migration, poverty and skills acquisition. Mention was also made of the need for in-depth studies on return migration and the efficacy of policies to promote the successful reintegration of return migrants and their contribution to development, particularly in the case of the highly skilled.

63. Participants noted that there was much that needed to be explored about the overall impact of international migration on development. In this regard, the United

Nations could take the lead in developing better methodologies to estimate the net effects of international migration on development for countries of origin and countries of destination. In particular, although advances had been made, a more comprehensive understanding of the effects of remittances on countries of origin was still necessary.

64. It was recognized that sufficient funding had to be allocated to build technical infrastructure and develop the appropriate expertise to carry out research both in countries of origin and countries of destination. Capacity-building initiatives supported by intergovernmental cooperation, including South-South cooperation, were thought to provide useful vehicles to enhance the evidence base.

V. Interactive segment on policy responses: promoting the building of partnerships and capacity-building and the sharing of best practices at all levels, including the bilateral and regional levels, for the benefit of countries and migrants alike

A. Improved cooperation: the role of major stakeholders

1. Non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector

65. Participants underscored the importance of the participation of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector in the High-level Dialogue to ensure that a variety of voices was heard and taken into account. Governments were encouraged to cooperate with the various migration stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, including migrant organizations and trade unions, and the private sector. Participants provided examples of countries where policy formulation included the active participation of civil society and the private sector. Examples were drawn from both developed and developing countries. Civil society was also key in advancing the understanding and awareness of the linkages between international migration and development.

66. Several participants underscored the importance of involving the private sector. Examples of useful cooperation between the private sector and authorities at various levels of government (national, regional or local) related to measures to facilitate the transfer of remittances, reduce transfer costs and, perhaps more importantly, to foster the productive use of migrants' savings. While recognizing that the primary responsibility for formulating and implementing international migration policy rested with Governments, participants supported the creation of partnerships between Governments, the business sector and civil society organizations, including trade unions, to help shape policy on migration and development and to ensure the effective implementation of international migration policy.

67. Participants called for greater cooperation between Governments and migrant associations. It was suggested that Governments could involve migrant associations in monitoring the costs of remittance transfers and working towards lowering them.

Migrant communities could work with Governments in countries of origin to support improved governance and institutions. Participants agreed that the involvement of transnational communities in fostering the development of countries of origin was both desirable and essential to maximize the benefits of international migration. It was acknowledged that the establishment of knowledge-sharing networks involving members of migrant communities could benefit countries of origin.

2. Involvement of particular groups of stakeholders

68. In enhancing partnerships involving civil society, participants felt that adequate representation of key groups, including young migrants, migrant women and migrants from indigenous groups was important. The special interests of children should also be represented. All relevant stakeholders should have a role, regardless of legal status.

3. Involving host societies

69. It was felt that partnerships would not be effective without the involvement of representatives of host societies. Civil society organizations could play a role in improving public perceptions about international migration in receiving countries. In particular, they should be active in information campaigns to raise awareness about the positive contribution that international migrants made to host societies. The importance of combating racism and xenophobia in receiving countries was stressed, together with the need to promote mutual understanding and tolerance among host societies and migrant communities. Participants thought that surveys monitoring public perceptions were useful tools.

4. Research community

70. Participants recognized that timely, accurate, reliable and easily accessible data and other information were prerequisites for the successful formulation of migration policies and programmes. The research community played a crucial role in promoting better understanding of the nexus between international migration and development. It was suggested that partnerships between researchers and Governments were important to ensure that research findings reached and were properly understood by decision-makers. Such partnerships also helped to ensure that research focused on relevant policy issues.

71. Given the relevance of regional consultative processes in building partnerships among Governments, it was suggested that stronger linkages between those processes and researchers could be beneficial.

B. Intergovernmental cooperation

1. Cooperation among Governments

72. Participants underscored the importance of promoting partnerships, capacity-building and the sharing of best practices at the bilateral level for the benefit of countries of origin and destination and migrants alike. Participants also noted the importance of bilateral agreements with regard to international migration, particularly between neighbouring countries. It was stressed that bilateral

agreements on migration should incorporate a rights-based approach. A participant called for the development of a depository system for bilateral agreements that would make them easily accessible, as suggested in the report of the Secretary-General. Such agreements could constitute a "true path for development" by contributing to link transnational communities with countries of origin, especially by promoting the exchange of knowledge and skills.

73. Some participants endorsed the concept of co-development as set forth in the report of the Secretary-General, indicating that close cooperation between countries of origin and destination could contribute to maximizing the benefits of international migration, while minimizing its negative consequences. Some participants recommended that co-development incorporate a rights-based approach. It was important for Governments to have mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of policies and programmes and to share best practices so that avoidable policy shortcomings would not be repeated. Governments might benefit from sharing experience regarding strategies to promote integration and to combat racism and discrimination. Participants recommended that technical cooperation between countries of origin and destination be pursued.

74. Cooperation among Governments was also viewed as crucial in combating trafficking in persons. The ratification and implementation of United Nations instruments regarding trafficking in persons was a first step in that direction. Participants urged Governments to protect the victims of trafficking in persons, especially by granting them permission to stay and safeguarding their human rights. Some participants argued that restrictive migration policies were at the root of increased trafficking. Additional measures to combat human trafficking should include the monitoring of recruitment practices and those to protect the rights of women and migrant workers.

2. High-level Dialogue and its follow-up

75. Participants recommended that the High-level Dialogue be transparent and inclusive. Several participants expressed support for the Secretary-General's proposal to establish a consultative forum at the global level to focus on international migration and development issues. To be effective, the forum would have to make possible the full participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector. In particular, the consultative forum should engage representatives of trade unions, migrant associations and networks, as well as youth organizations, so that Governments could obtain a balanced view of migration's benefits and challenges.

76. The positive impact of international migration, based on firm respect for human rights, was underscored by several participants, especially those who noted that it could contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals. There was general agreement that improved cooperation among Governments and with non-State actors that included a wide spectrum of civil society organizations and the private sector could go a long way in promoting the beneficial aspects of migration. Fostering partnerships among Governments as well as among Governments and other stakeholders was necessary to protect migrants, ensure respect for their rights and foster the benefits of international migration for development.

Annex

Programme of the informal interactive hearings of the General Assembly with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector

10 a.m.-1 p.m.	**Morning meeting**	
10 a.m.-10.30 a.m.	Opening of the hearings	
	Statement by the Acting President of the General Assembly	
	Statement by the Deputy Secretary-General	
	Statement by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development	
10.35 a.m.-11.45 a.m.	Segment 1	Promoting a comprehensive rights-based approach to international migration, and ensuring respect for and protection of the human rights of all migrants and their families
11.50 a.m.-1 p.m.	Segment 2	International migration and development: challenges for social and economic policies in sending and receiving countries
3 p.m.-6 p.m.	**Afternoon meeting**	
3 p.m.-4.15 p.m.	Segment 3	International migration and development: challenges for social and economic policies in sending and receiving countries (continued)
4.20 p.m.-5.30 p.m.	Segment 4	Policy responses: promoting the building of partnerships and capacity-building and the sharing of best practices at all levels, including the bilateral and regional levels, for the benefit of countries and migrants alike
5.30 p.m.-6 p.m.	Closing of the hearings	
	Statement by the Acting President of the General Assembly	

United Nations A/61/188

General Assembly

Distr.: General
28 July 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Item 115 of the provisional agenda*
Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007

Standards of accommodation for air travel

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report of the Secretary-General on the standards of accommodation for air travel is submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 42/214 of 21 December 1987, 45/218 A of 21 December 1990 and decisions 44/442 of 21 December 1989 and 46/450 of 20 December 1991, as well as decision 57/589 of 18 June 2003, in which the Secretary-General was requested to submit a report to the General Assembly on a biennial basis. The present report provides information on standards of accommodation for air travel for the two-year period ended 30 June 2006 and comparative statistics for the two-year period ended 30 June 2004.

* A/61/150.

06-44792 (E) 180806

I. Introduction

1. The United Nations standards of accommodation for air travel are governed by a series of General Assembly resolutions and decisions, including resolutions 42/214 of 21 December 1987, 45/248 A of 21 December 1990 and 53/214 of 11 February 1999 and decisions 40/555 of 18 December 1985, 44/442 of 21 December 1989, 46/450 of 20 December 1991 and 57/589 of 18 June 2003. Pursuant to the discretionary authority vested in the Secretary-General to authorize exceptions to air travel on a case-by-case basis and business-class travel by air in special circumstances that warrant it, the Secretary-General has promulgated administrative instruction ST/AI/2000/20 dated 22 December 2000 for the purpose of implementing the various staff rules relating to the standards of accommodation for air travel and the exceptions thereto.

2. In the past, certain categories of exceptions to the standards have been established, including, but not limited to, the following: travel of eminent persons; travel of prominent individuals who are donating their services to the Organization free of charge; travel under circumstances that have been deemed to be arduous or under which, for medical reasons, it has been deemed appropriate to upgrade the accommodation of air travel; travel of the personal aides and security officials travelling with the Secretary-General, his wife or his personal representatives; and travel under circumstances when the normal standard of accommodation is not available and it is considered prudent to authorize an upgrade.

II. Travel of delegations

3. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 42/214, payment of first-class accommodation by air is limited to the heads of delegations of the least developed countries to the regular and special sessions of the Assembly. During the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2004, 53 first-class trips were approved for the travel of such representatives, at a cost of $369,522, compared with 60 trips during the two-year period ended 30 June 2006, at a cost of $496,602. This translates into a 13 per cent increase in the number of trips and a 34 per cent increase in cost.

III. Travel of the President of the General Assembly

4. To strengthen the ability of the President of the General Assembly effectively and efficiently to discharge the responsibilities of the Office, the Assembly, by resolution 53/214 decided that its President, consistent with the approved programme budget, should have full authority to use the funds provided in the budget for the Office. During the reporting period, 15 trips were authorized under this authority, at an additional cost of $24,378. Detailed information on travel authorized by the President is provided in annex VI to the present report. It should be noted that all first-class travel and other exceptions authorized under the authority of the President of the Assembly are included in annex VI, whereas in the relevant annex of previous reports only the President's own travel was included, and other exceptions, either for first class or business class travel, were included under specific categories of exception.

IV. Exceptions authorized by the Secretary-General

5. By General Assembly resolution 42/214, the Secretary-General was authorized to exercise his discretion in making exceptions to allow first-class air travel on a case-by-case basis. Such discretionary authority is also exercised in accordance with paragraph 4.5 of ST/AI/2000/20 when, in the opinion of the Secretary-General, special circumstances warrant it. In exercising such authority, the Secretary-General takes into consideration, inter alia, the following circumstances:

(a) A medical condition that may necessitate a level of comfort not available in the standard of accommodation to which the traveller is entitled. Such cases are referred to the Director of the Medical Services Division for recommendation. Advanced age alone is not considered sufficient justification to grant an exception;

(b) The normal standard of accommodation is unavailable and, owing to the exigencies of service, the traveller is required to travel on a particular date. Cases also arise when accommodation at the normal standard of entitlement is not available and the cost of a daily subsistence allowance, while the traveller waits for the next available seat, would be greater than the higher standard of travel;

(c) The traveller is considered an eminent person, such as a former Head of State, or a prominent international figure in the political, humanitarian or cultural arenas;

(d) The traveller is a prominent person who is donating his or her services free of charge to the Organization and, in some cases, at a loss in personal income. Such individuals may be accorded the standard of accommodation to which they are accustomed;

(e) The traveller, after completing a full day of work, is required to travel through the night in order to resume work, attend meetings or present a paper at another location on the following morning or immediately upon arrival. Where such cases involve arduous journeys, it has been deemed reasonable that the standard of accommodation accorded the traveller should provide the best rest possible while travelling, or provide the conditions most conducive to work while flying, or both;

(f) The traveller is a personal aide or provides security services to the Secretary-General, his wife or to any other official authorized to travel above the standard accommodation that would normally be provided. There has been an increase in the number of trips taken by such personnel, from 26 in the two-year period ended 30 June 2004 to 35 in the period under review.

6. On 18 March 1998, the Secretary-General decided that, as an exception, all travel of the Deputy Secretary-General should be in first class, in keeping with his/her special status. As regards practical arrangements, efforts are first made to obtain upgrades to first class against payment of the full business-class fare. Where this is not feasible, the first-class fare is paid. For the two-year period ended 30 June 2004, 11 such trips were authorized for the Deputy Secretary-General at a cost of $44,267, compared with 11 trips, at an additional cost of $29,923, for the period under review.

7. A summary of the exceptions authorized in respect of the United Nations during the period under review is contained in table 1 below and a summary of those authorized during the two-year period ended 30 June 2004 appears in table 2.

Annexes I to VI to the present report provide detailed information on the number, nature, reason and the additional cost of the exceptions authorized on the basis of the above-mentioned factors, during the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2006.

8. A summary of the exceptions authorized in respect of other United Nations entities during the period under review is contained in table 3 below and a summary of those authorized during the two-year period ended 30 June 2004 appears in table 4. Details of exceptions authorized for the United Nations Development Programme; the United Nations Children's Fund; the United Nations Institute for Training and Research; and the United Nations University for the current period are contained in annexes VII, VIII, IX and X, respectively.

9. The General Assembly may wish to take note of the present report.

Table 1
Summary of exceptions, 1 July 2004-30 June 2006, United Nations

(Cost in United States dollars)

	First class		*Business class*		*Total*			
Reason for exception	*Number of trips*	*Additional cost*	*Number of trips*	*Additional cost*	*Number of trips*	*Additional cost*	*Regular budget*	*Other*
Medical condition	5	22 848	57	84 749	62	107 597	38 786	68 811
Normal standard of accommodation not available	3	882	13	6 075	16	6 957	1 879	5 078
Eminent person	10	40 137	6	4 219	16	44 356	6 328	38 028
Prominent person donating services free of charge to the Organization	0	0	22	39 916	22	39 916	15 300	24 616
Arduous journey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Personal aide/security officer	33	132 304	2	1 230	35	133 534	133 534	0
Deputy Secretary-General	11	29 923	0	0	11	29 923	29 923	0
Subtotal	**62**	**226 094**	**100**	**136 189**	**162**	**362 283**	**225 750**	**136 533**
Authorized by the President of the General Assembly	15	24 378	0	0	15	24 378	24 378	0
Total	**77**	**250 472**	**100**	**136 189**	**177**	**386 661**	**250 128**	**136 533**

Table 2
Summary of exceptions, 1 July 2002-30 June 2004, United Nations
(Cost in United States dollars)

	First class		*Business class*		*Total*	
Reason for exception	*Number of trips*	*Additional cost*	*Number of trips*	*Additional cost*	*Number of trips*	*Additional cost*
Medical condition	10	21 865	37	59 624	47	81 489
Normal standard of accommodation not available	10	4 023	28	6 142	38	10 165
Eminent person	4	11 859	31	49 803	35	61 662
Prominent person donating services free of charge to the Organization	21	64 077	16	16 746	37	80 823
Arduous journey	1	3 739	5	6 821	6	10 560
Personal aide/security officer	26	84 993	0	0	26	84 993
Deputy Secretary-General	11	44 267	0	0	11	44 267
Subtotal	**83**	**234 823**	**117**	**139 136**	**200**	**373 959**
Authorized by the President of the General Assembly	8	23 706	4	16 613	12	40 319
Total	**91**	**258 529**	**121**	**155 749**	**212**	**414 278**

Table 3
Summary of exceptions, 1 July 2004-30 June 2006: other United Nations entities
(Cost in United States dollars)

	First class		*Business class*		*Total*	
Reason for exception	*Number of trips*	*Additional cost*	*Number of trips*	*Additional cost*	*Number of trips*	*Additional cost*
Medical condition	1	3 130	15	19 976	16	23 106
Normal standard of accommodation not available	1	426	2	1 991	3	2 417
Eminent person	3	12 229	1	649	4	12 878
Prominent person donating services free of charge to the Organization	0	0	6	8 444	6	8 444
Arduous journey	0	0	1	941	1	941
Total	**6**	**15 785**	**24**	**32 001**	**30**	**47 786**

Table 4
Summary of exceptions, 1 July 2002-30 June 2004: other United Nations entities

(Cost in United States dollars)

	First class		*Business class*		*Total*	
Reason for exception	*Number of trips*	*Additional cost*	*Number of trips*	*Additional cost*	*Number of trips*	*Additional cost*
Medical condition	0	0	3	4 860	3	4 860
Normal standard of accommodation not available	2	2 040	3	1 649	5	3 689
Eminent person	0	0	3	3 225	3	3 225
Prominent person donating services free of charge to the Organization	4	3 613	7	11 571	11	15 184
Arduous journey	1	1 028	1	208	2	1 236
Total	**7**	**6 681**	**17**	**21 513**	**24**	**28 194**

Annex I

Exceptions authorized owing to medical conditions, 1 July 2004-30 June 2006

	Designation of traveller	*Itinerary*[a]	*Additional cost (United States dollars)*
A.	**First class**		
1.	Prosecutor, International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia	Amsterdam/Zurich/ New York/Zurich/Amsterdam	3 364
2.	Prosecutor, International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia	Lugano/New York/Lugano/ Zurich/Amsterdam	6 322
3.	Prosecutor, International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia	Amsterdam/Zurich/ New York/Zurich/Amsterdam	6 330
4.	Prosecutor, International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia	Amsterdam/Zurich/ New York/Zurich/Amsterdam	3 402
5.	Prosecutor, International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia	Amsterdam/Zurich/Washington, D.C./New York/Zurich/ Amsterdam	3 430
	Subtotal		**22 848**
B.	**Business class**		
1.	Director, New York Office, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)	New York/Geneva/New York	627
2.	Deputy Director, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	Geneva/New York/Geneva	961
3.	Deputy of U9, United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)	Haiti/Bolivia	295
4.	Director, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	Geneva/New York	1 021
5.	Adviser, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)	Santiago/Mexico/Santiago	2 636
6.	Contingent member	Santo Domingo/Panama/ São Paulo/Rio de Janiero/	1 425
7.	Director, Office of Legal Affairs	New York/Geneva/New York	332
8.	Director, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development	Geneva/New York/Geneva	1 738
9.	Director, Americas Bureau, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Geneva/New York/Geneva	1 628
10.	Deputy Director, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	Geneva/New York/Geneva	1 648
11.	Staff member, OHCHR	Geneva/New York/Geneva	847
12.	Former Force Commander, Department of Peacekeeping Operations	London/New York/London	6 689
13.	Deputy Director, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	Geneva/Moscow/Dushanbe/ Moscow/Geneva	1 632

	Designation of traveller	*Itinerary[a]*	*Additional cost (United States dollars)*
14.	Deputy Director, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	Geneva/New York/Geneva	1 033
15.	Deputy Director, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	Geneva/New York/Geneva	2 300
16.	Member, Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	Copenhagen/Washington, D.C./ Copenhagen	1 467
17.	Chairperson, Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel, UNEP	Quito/Miami/.../Miami/Quito	372
18.	Member, Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel, UNEP	Frankfurt/Washington, D.C./ Frankfurt	816
19.	Member, Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel, Division of Global Environment Facility Coordination, UNEP	Frankfurt/Washington, D.C./ Frankfurt	802
20.	Chairperson, Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel, UNEP	Quito/Miami/.../Miami/Quito	224
21.	Chairperson, Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel, UNEP	Quito/Miami/.../Miami/Quito	326
22.	Chairperson, Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel, UNEP	Quito/Miami/.../Miami/Quito	302
23.	Director, Division of Protection, OHCHR	Geneva/Paris/N'Djamena/Paris/ Geneva	2 340
24.	Staff member, OHCHR	Geneva/New York/Geneva	847
25.	Deputy Director, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	Geneva/New York/Geneva	2 300
26.	Director, Executive Office of the Secretary-General	Dublin/London/New York	2 200
27.	Former Force Commander, Department of Peacekeeping Operations	London/New York/London	5 945
28.	Director, New York Office, OHCHR	New York/Geneva/New York	2 527
29.	Peruvian contingent, MINUSTAH	Port-au-Prince/Kingston/ Panama/Lima	765
30.	Deputy Director, Department for Disarmament Affairs	Geneva/Riyadh/Geneva	1 156
31.	Director, Division of Early Warning and Assessment, UNEP	Nairobi/London/...	501
32.	Deputy Director, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	Geneva/New York/Cairo/Geneva	782
33.	Keynote speaker at the Intergovernmental Meeting organized by UNEP and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	Nairobi/Kinshasa/Nairobi	313
34.	Director, Office of Legal Affairs	Newark/Geneva	4 747
35.	Director, Peace Research Institute of Frankfurt	Frankfurt/New York/Frankfurt	2 324
36.	Panellist, Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel, UNEP	Copenhagen/ Washington, D.C./Copenhagen	672
37.	Director, New York Office, OHCHR	New York/Geneva/New York	1 938
38.	Vehicle mechanic, United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia	Tbilisi/Vienna/Tbilisi	1 518

	Designation of traveller	*Itinerary*[a]	*Additional cost (United States dollars)*
39.	Chief, Science and Technology, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	Geneva/New York/Geneva	1 264
40.	Director, OHCHR	Newark/Geneva/Budapest/ Munich/ Newark	2 140
41.	Director, Department for Disarmament Affairs	Frankfurt/New York/Frankfurt	752
42.	Deputy Director, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	Geneva/Tehran/Kerman/Tehran/ Geneva	868
43.	Director, New York Office, OHCHR	New York/Geneva/New York	4 456
44.	Political Affairs Officer, Department of Political Affairs	New York/Madrid/New York	1 930
45.	Director, Division of Early Warning and Assessment, United Nations Office at Nairobi	Nairobi/London/ Washington, D.C.	856
46.	Senior Human Rights Officer, UNHCHR	Geneva/New York/Geneva	555
47.	Deputy Director, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	Geneva/New York/Geneva	1 600
48.	Deputy Director, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	Geneva/New York/Geneva	936
49.	Political Affairs Officer, Department of Political Affairs	New York/Stockholm/New York	1 720
50.	Deputy Executive Secretary a.i., ECLAC	Santiago/Montevideo/Santiago	527
51.	Deputy Director, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	Geneva/Tehran/Geneva	1 553
52.	Director, UNHCR	Geneva/Baku/Geneva	478
53.	Uruguayan contingent, MINUSTAH	Port-au-Prince/Panama/ São Paulo/Montevideo	266
54.	Deputy Director, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	Geneva/New York/Geneva	464
55.	Deputy Director, Department for Disarmament Affairs	Geneva/New York/Geneva	944
56.	Deputy Executive Secretary, ECLAC	Santiago/Miami/Santiago	2 314
57.	Member of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues	Canberra/Wellington/Canberra	1 130
	Subtotal		**84 749**
	Total		**107 597**

[a] The ellipses in a given itinerary indicate that for some legs the normal standard of accommodation applied and no exception was involved.

Annex II

Exceptions authorized owing to the unavailability of normal standard of accommodation, 1 July 2004-30 June 2006

	Designation of traveller	*Itinerary*	*Additional cost (United States dollars)*
A.	**First class**		
1.	Member, Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and Associated Individuals and Entities	Sana'a/Riyadh	162
2.	Chairman, Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and Associated Individuals and Entities	Sana'a/Riyadh	162
3.	Staff member, Executive Office of the Secretary-General	Accra/New York	558
	Subtotal		**882**
B.	**Business class**		
1.	Deputy Head of Mobilization Service, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Geneva/Amsterdam/Oslo	346
2.	Expert to attend meeting of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)	Paris/Bangkok	228
3.	Participant, ESCAP meeting	Kathmandu/Kunming	57
4.	Political Affairs Officer, Department of Peacekeeping Operations (United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories (UNSCO))	Paris/Tel Aviv	769
5.	Staff member, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	Brazzaville/Ouagadougou	307
6.	Associate External Affairs Officer, UNHCR	Geneva/Amsterdam/Oslo	233
7.	Director, Investigation Division, Department of Peacekeeping Operations (Lebanon)	Beirut/Munich/Berlin/Beirut	266
8.	Deputy Director, Desk for Central Asia, South-West Asia, North Africa and the Middle East, UNHCR	Geneva/Vienna	691
9.	Head of Desk for Central Asia, South-West Asia, North Africa and the Middle East, UNHCR	Geneva/Damascus/Geneva	691
10.	Director, United Nations information centre, Lagos, Department of Public Information	Lagos/Nairobi/Lagos	426
11.	Chief Investigator, Department of Peacekeeping Operations	Beirut/Paris/Beirut	1 069
12.	Regional Officer, ESCAP	Bangkok/Paro	85
13.	Political Affairs Officer, UNSCO	Tel Aviv/London/Tel Aviv	967
	Subtotal		**6 075**
	Total		**6 957**

[a] The ellipses in a given itinerary indicate that for some legs the normal standard of accommodation applied and no exception was involved.

Annex III

Exceptions authorized owing to the eminence of the traveller, 1 July 2004-30 June 2006

	Designation of traveller	*Itinerary*	*Additional cost (United States dollars)*
A.	**First class**		
	Fourth meeting of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change		
1.	Panel member	Tokyo/Brussels/Vienna/Tokyo	3 300
	Fifth meeting of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change		
2.	Panel member	Tokyo/New York/Tokyo	5 995
3.	Panel member	Paris/New York/Paris	3 465
	Sixth meeting of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change		
4.	Panel member	Tokyo/New York	2 542
5.	Panel member	Beijing/New York/Beijing	1 626
6.	Panel member	Paris/New York/Paris	3 465
	Other		
7.	Member, High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly	Paris/New York/Paris	3 600
8.	Former Prime Minister of Japan	Tokyo/New York/Tokyo	7 300
9.	Former Prime Minister of Japan	Tokyo/Rome/Tokyo	6 144
10.	Prime Minister of Uganda	Kampala/New York/Kampala	2 700
	Subtotal		**40 137**
B.	**Business class**		
	Initial interviews with the Secretary-General to fill senior-level position		
1.	Professor of Economics	Sacramento/New York/Sacramento	121
2.	Professor of Finance and Development	Panama/New York/Quito	850
	Other		
3.	Former Prime Minister of Norway	Oslo/Geneva/Oslo	150
4.	Chairman, Secretary-General's Advisory Panel on International Support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development	Lagos/London/Lagos	1 411
5.	Former Prime Minister of Japan	Tokyo/Beijing/Tokyo	441
6.	Permanent Representative of Guinea-Bissau to the United Nations	New York/Lisbon/New York	1 246
	Subtotal		**4 219**
	Total		**44 356**

Annex IV

Exceptions authorized owing to the donation of services free of charge to the Organization by a prominent traveller, 1 July 2004-30 June 2006

	Designation of traveller	*Itinerary*	*Additional cost (United States dollars)*
Business class			
	Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation, first meeting		
1.	President of the International Commission of the Scientific and Technical Association for Water and Environment	Paris/New York/Paris	3 140
2.	Former President, Women's Environment and Development Organization	Georgetown/New York/Georgetown	401
3.	Deputy Director, London School of Economics and Political Science	London/New York/London	5 100
4.	Trade union representative	Paris/New York/Paris	3 140
5.	Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, European Commission	Brussels/Rome/Brussels	440
6.	Parliamentary State Secretary, Government of Germany	Berlin/Rome/Berlin	216
7.	Former Special Adviser for the World Summit on Sustainable Development	Bogota/Mexico/Bogota	583
	Other		
8.	Former Commissioner, Economic Commission for Europe	Paris/Geneva/Paris	696
9.	Expert speaker at tenth anniversary symposium of the Office of Internal Oversight Services	Oslo/Paris/New York/Paris	498
10.	Member of the Secretary-General's Advisory Panel on International Support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development	New York/Helsinki/New York	1 340
11.	President, World Wildlife Fund	London/New York/London	1 061
12.	Vice-Minister of External Relations of El Salvador	Los Angeles/New York/San Salvador	298
13.	Former President of the German Federal Parliament	Berlin/New York/Berlin	1 694
14.	Professor, Cambridge University	London/New York/London	1 109
15.	Chairman, Secretary-General's Advisory Panel on International Support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development	Vancouver/New York/London	3 843
16.	Former Assistant Secretary-General, Legal Affairs	New York/Amsterdam/New York	4 814
17.	Ambassador	Malta/London/Malta	659
18.	Judge, International Criminal Court	Paris/New York/Paris	3 362
19.	Former Minister of Finance of Chile	Mexico City/Washington, D.C./Mexico	1 126

	Designation of traveller	*Itinerary*	*Additional cost (United States dollars)*
	Witness to testify at the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia		
20.	Witness	Belgrade/Amsterdam/Belgrade	266
21.	Witness	New York/Amsterdam/New York	5 744
22.	Witness	Moscow/Amsterdam/Moscow	386
	Subtotal		**39 916**
	Total		**39 916**

Annex V

Authorized travel of the Deputy Secretary-General, 1 July 2004-30 June 2006

Designation of traveller	*Itinerary*[a]	*Additional cost (United States dollars)*
First class		
1. Deputy Secretary-General	New York/Tel Aviv/New York	1 296
2. Deputy Secretary-General	New York/Geneva/New York	2 827
3. Deputy Secretary-General	New York/Santiago/New York	2 184
4. Deputy Secretary-General	New York/Tel Aviv/New York	2 290
5. Deputy Secretary-General	New York/Tel Aviv/New York	2 290
6. Deputy Secretary-General	New York/Boston/Kuala Lumpur/New York	1 909
7. Deputy Secretary-General	New York/Melbourne/Canberra/Sydney/New York	6 031
8. Deputy Secretary-General	New York/Stockholm/New York	3 862
9. Deputy Secretary-General	New York/Pristina/Nairobi/.../Bujumbura/New York	2 578
10. Deputy Secretary-General	New York/Stockholm/New York	1 296
11. Deputy Secretary-General	New York/Strasbourg/Brussels/Paris/.../Berlin/New York	3 360
Total		**29 923**

[a] The ellipses in a given itinerary indicate that for some legs the normal standard of accommodation applied and no exception was involved.

Annex VI

Travel authorized by the President of the General Assembly, 1 July 2004-30 June 2006

	Designation of traveller	*Itinerary*	*Additional cost (United States dollars)*
First class			
1.	President of the General Assembly	New York/Athens/Durban/New York	1 352
2.	President of the General Assembly	New York/Baltimore/New York	431
3.	President of the General Assembly	New York/Washington D.C./New York	292
4.	President of the General Assembly	New York/Washington D.C./New York	474
5.	President of the General Assembly	New York/Doha/Zurich/New York	1 884
6.	President of the General Assembly	New York/Lausanne/Rome/Dakar/New York	3 821
7.	President of the General Assembly	New York/Bangkok/Jakarta/New York	4 390
8.	President of the General Assembly	New York/Libreville/Port Louis/Moscow/New York	2 628
9.	President of the General Assembly	New York/Innsbruck/Vienna/Paris/New York	4 060
10.	President of the General Assembly	New York/Washington D.C./New York	474
11.	President of the General Assembly	New York/Paramaribo/Havana/New York	945
12.	President of the General Assembly	New York/St. George/Grenada/New York	433
13.	Chef de Cabinet to the President of the General Assembly	New York/Montego Bay/Havana/New York	1 564
14.	Chef de Cabinet to the President of the General Assembly	New York/Paramaribo/Havana/New York	945
15.	Chef de Cabinet to the President of the General Assembly	New York/St. George/New York	685
	Total		**24 378**

Annex VII

Exceptions authorized for the United Nations Development Programme, 1 July 2004-30 June 2006

Designation of traveller	*Itinerary*	*Additional cost (United States dollars)*
Exceptions authorized owing to medical conditions		
A. First class		
Administrator	New York/Tokyo/Copenhagen/Geneva/New York	3 130
Subtotal		**3 130**
B. Business class		
1. Director, HIV/AIDS	New York/Port of Spain/New York	239
2. Practice Manager	New York/Paris/New York	1 179
3. Executive Director	New York/Stockholm/New York	2 350
4. Director, HIV/AIDS	New York/Geneva/Dakar/New York	549
5. Director, HIV/AIDS	New York/Amsterdam/Colombo/New York	932
6. Director, HIV/AIDS	New York/Geneva/.../New York	549
7. Director, HIV/AIDS	New York/Paris/Vienna/New York	1 274
8. Director, HIV/AIDS	New York/Paris/.../Vienna/New York	914
Subtotal		**7 986**
Total		**11 116**
Exceptions authorized when the normal standard of accommodation was not available		
Business class		
Special Adviser to Executive Director	New York/Amsterdam	1 661
Total		**1 661**
Exceptions authorized for prominent persons donating their services free of charge to the Organization		
Business class		
1. Foreign Minister of Canada	Winnipeg/New York/Winnipeg	747
2. Former Adviser to the Secretary-General	Paris/New York/Paris	4 024
3. Former Foreign Minister of Norway	Oslo/New York/Oslo	975
4. Celebrity	Los Angeles/New York/Los Angeles	860
5. Celebrity	Los Angeles/New York/Los Angeles	860
6. Former Foreign Minister of Sweden	Stockholm/New York/Stockholm	978
Total		**8 444**
Total		**21 221**

Annex VIII

Exceptions authorized for the United Nations Children's Fund, 1 July 2004-30 June 2006

Designation of traveller	*Itinerary*[a]	*Additional cost (United States dollars)*
Exceptions authorized owing to medical conditions		
Business class		
1. Chief, Division of Communication	New York/Geneva/New York	2 950
2. Senior Adviser	New York/Geneva/New York	2 950
3. Consultant	New York/London/...	1 859
4. Consultant	Brussels/New York/Bardstown	2 100
Total		**9 859**
Exceptions authorized when the normal standard of accommodation was not available		
First class		
Goodwill Ambassador	New York/Montego Bay/Chicago	426
Total		**426**
Exceptions authorized for eminent persons		
First class		
1. Goodwill Ambassador	London/New York/London	5 000
2. Goodwill Ambassador	London/New York/London	5 000
3. Goodwill Ambassador	San Antonio/New York/San Antonio	2 229
Total		**12 229**
Total UNICEF		**22 514**

[a] The ellipses in a given itinerary indicate that for some legs the normal standard of accommodation applied and no exception was involved.

Annex IX

Exceptions authorized for the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, 1 July 2004-30 June 2006

Designation of traveller	*Itinerary*[a]	*Additional cost (United States dollars)*
Exceptions authorized owing to medical conditions		
Business class		
Senior Programme Coordinator	Geneva/New York/Geneva	1 436
Total		**1 436**
Exceptions authorized for eminent persons		
Business class		
Judge, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea	Seoul/Bangkok/Seoul	649
Total		**649**
Exceptions authorized for arduous journey		
Business class		
Principal Programme Coordinator	Geneva/Dubai	941
Total		**941**
Total UNITAR		**3 026**

[a] The ellipses in a given itinerary indicate that for some legs the normal standard of accommodation applied and no exception was involved.

Annex X

Exceptions authorized for the United Nations University, 1 July 2004-30 June 2006

Designation of traveller	*Itinerary*	*Additional cost (United States dollars)*
Exceptions authorized owing to medical conditions		
Business class		
1. Lecturer at United Nations University, international courses	Kuala Lumpur/Tokyo/Kuala Lumpur	325
2. Head of International Movement for a Just World	Kuala Lumpur/Tokyo/Kuala Lumpur	370
Total		**695**
Exceptions authorized when the normal standard of accommodation was not available		
Business class		
Academic Programme Officer, United Nations University	Narita/Seoul/Tianjin/Seoul/Narita	330
Total		**330**
Total UNU		**1 025**

United Nations A/61/189

General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 July 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Item 115 of the provisional agenda
Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007*

United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly decisions 52/466 and 53/475, wherein the Secretary-General was requested to inform the Assembly, on a regular basis, about the activities of the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP). Information is provided on the outcome of the seventeenth and eighteenth funding cycles as well as intersessional approvals that took place in 2005, progress in each programme area and a review of UNFIP activities in advocacy and partnership-building for the United Nations system. The present report supplements the information contained in the previous reports of the Secretary-General (A/53/700 and Add.1, A/54/664 and Add.1-3, A/55/763 and Corr.1, A/57/133, A/58/173, A/59/170 and A/60/327).

Member States will note that a total of $170.5 million was programmed for 2005. Broken down by programme area, the grants for the year were distributed as follows: children's health, $143.9 million for five new and one ongoing project; population and women, $2.7 million; environment, $10.1 million for eighteen projects; peace, security and human rights, $3.6 million for five projects (of which three are new); and $10.5 million for seven projects (of which four are new) outside the four thematic areas. Since the partnership between UNFIP and the United Nations Foundation was launched in 1998, a total of $809.5 million has been programmed.

* A/61/150

06-44777 (E) 210806

Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Introduction	1–4	3
II.	Programme	5–48	4
	A. Children's health	6–17	4
	B. Women and population	18–24	6
	C. Environment	25–34	8
	D. Peace, security and human rights	35–40	10
	E. Strategic initiatives	41–43	10
	F. Support to emergency response	44–47	11
	G. Monitoring and evaluation/programme review	48	12
III.	The United Nations Democracy Fund	49–50	12
IV.	Facilitating global partnerships for development	51–60	12
V.	Advocacy and public affairs	61–64	15
VI.	Funding rounds	65–66	16
VII.	Operational and financial arrangements	67–69	16
VIII.	Conclusion	70–73	17
Annexes			
I.	Composition of the 2005 United Nations Fund for International Partnerships advisory board		19
II.	Projects funded by the United Nations Foundation, by programme area		20

I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) continued its partnership activities with the United Nations Foundation that was established by Robert E. (Ted) Turner to disburse his contribution of $1 billion in support of United Nations causes. In that capacity, UNFIP collaborated with United Nations system organizations to identify innovative, high-impact projects consistent with the programme frameworks for children's health; women and population; the environment; and peace, security and human rights. Projects and activities were identified in conformity with the Foundation's strategic objectives, the goals and objectives of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and related development goals. Those projects and activities were implemented on the basis of guidelines issued by the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) and in line with the common country assessment and the United Nations development assistance framework. Since the inception of the United Nations Foundation/UNFIP partnership in 1998, a total of $809.5 million (inclusive of co-financing) has been allocated to fund 376 projects with activities in 121 countries involving 39 United Nations organizations. The cumulative amount of co-financing from other funding partners was $360.4 million, or more than one third of all approved grants. In addition, parallel funding provided for the same programmes and projects amounted to nearly $322 million.

2. The year also proved especially challenging in dealing with two natural emergencies: the Indian Ocean tsunami of 24 December 2004 and the earthquake in Pakistan of 8 October 2005. The scale of the devastation and number of victims of the tsunami drew worldwide attention and an opportunity for unprecedented public response. It became evident that the needs of the survivors for health care, water supply and reconstruction, could be met by channelling resources through the United Nations Foundation/UNFIP programme frameworks, although providing relief assistance was a new direction for the partnership. Similarly, with regards to the earthquake in Pakistan, the United Nations Foundation and UNFIP found ways of providing assistance within their areas of competency.

3. As in previous years, UNFIP also undertook the responsibility for providing assistance to international private sector and foundations in developing partnership opportunities with United Nations common system organizations. In keeping with the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the Secretary-General's commitment to facilitating and coordinating collective action on shared principles and priorities, UNFIP focused efforts on the creation of networking and resource mobilization opportunities with a broad range of actors, including bilateral partners. As at 31 December 2005, UNFIP had fielded nearly 500 substantial enquiries about partnership with the United Nations system from a wide range of organizations, networks, coalitions and individuals.

4. On 4 July 2005, the Secretary-General announced the establishment of the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) at the African Union summit in Syrte. At the 2005 World Summit held at United Nations Headquarters in September, world leaders welcomed the establishment of the fund and supported it with a total of $41 million in contributions. UNFIP was tasked by the Secretary-General to launch UNDEF as soon as possible. With the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Department of Political Affairs and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR),

UNFIP undertook preparatory activities for the launch of UNDEF in early 2006 and its funding activities.

II. Programme

5. A detailed review is set out below of developments in the past year in programmes and projects being implemented with the support of the United Nations Foundation under the four programme themes: children's health; population and women; environment; and peace, security and human rights. In addition to these activities, the United Nations Foundation supported a number of strategic initiatives and facilitated the provision of small grants to United Nations activities.

A. Children's health

6. The children's health portfolio is comprised of 61 projects valued at $432.5 million, of which 49 have been completed. The supported projects address the following United Nations priorities: eradicating polio ($102.4 million); preventing tobacco use ($8.9 million); decreasing child mortality and preventing HIV/AIDS ($47.7 million); delivering micronutrients ($7.3 million); improving and sustaining vaccine delivery ($225.1 million); and strengthening community health knowledge and practices ($19.2 million). Projects falling outside the framework are valued at $21.9 million. In 2005 the children's health portfolio was granted $143.5 million.

7. The main areas of support in this portfolio concern measles control and polio eradication. Programme activities continue to take a preventative approach to children's health and seek to ensure that interventions funded by the United Nations Foundation contribute to strengthening public health infrastructure and building capacity for service delivery and surveillance in developing countries. Measles control, for example, is a cost-effective investment in reducing child mortality and morbidity that is measurable, replicable and realistic. It includes activities that can be readily adapted to scale and the demand for vaccination is very high.

8. Launched in 2001, the Measles Initiative in Africa brings valuable United Nations Foundation/UNFIP support to United Nations system agencies, including the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The partnership includes the American Red Cross, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations, the Vodafone Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Canadian International Development Agency, numerous non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector. The Initiative has supported the vaccination of more than 200 million children in over 33 countries in Africa, reaching at least 90 per cent of the target population, thereby preventing over 300,000 deaths in 2003, the last year for which measles mortality data are available. The largest reduction was seen in Africa, the region where the burden of the disease is greatest. The partnership works closely with African Governments, local communities and civil society partners to make sure that all children at risk have access to measles vaccinations and related health interventions.

9. In 2005, the UNFIP Advisory Board and the United Nations Foundation Board of Directors approved phase VIII of the project entitled "Strengthening immunization services through measles control in Africa" for a total of $26.4 million. The extension of this joint UNICEF and WHO project continues to support measles campaigns in at least 16 countries in Africa, reaching over 33 million children. With an overall objective to lower measles mortality to near zero and reduce measles morbidity by 95 per cent, the project includes activities such as the provision of vaccines, syringes and other supplies and technical and financial support for microplanning, training and social mobilization. The programme also has the following associated objectives: to strengthen measles surveillance; to deliver additional health interventions such as vitamin A supplements, de-worming tablets and insecticide-treated bed nets for malaria control in target countries; and to strengthen existing partnerships in the field of immunization in the affected regions.

10. In response to the Indian Ocean tsunami of December 2004, the Measles Initiative in Africa mobilized new resources enabling the expansion of measles control activities to Asia. A total of $87 million generated by the American Red Cross was channelled through the United Nations Foundation and UNFIP for this purpose.

11. The United Nations Foundation submitted through the Measles Initiative in Africa, a proposal for measles immunization as an early activity of the International Finance Facility for Immunization (IFFIm) that was launched in September 2005. Support from IFFIm could reach as much as $150 million, permitting expansion to additional countries, including Cambodia, India, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea.

12. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative is the largest international public health effort to date. A total of $91 million has been approved for the Initiative since 1999. The advocacy group of the Initiative comprises resource mobilization focal points from the United Nations Foundation, Rotary International, WHO and UNICEF.

13. Despite setbacks in 2004, polio eradication efforts regained momentum in 2005. Interruption of the polio virus transmission was attained in Egypt in 2005 and similar success is envisaged for a number of countries in 2006. WHO considers that ending transmission in 2006 is an attainable goal. The United Nations Foundation and UNFIP have engaged in fund-raising efforts with non-traditional donors to support polio eradication efforts. For example, in partnership with the United States Centres for Disease Control, a total of $15 million was provided for a third "buy-down", making nearly $50 million available for polio eradication efforts in Pakistan.

14. Malaria is a "silent tsunami" that kills more than 150,000 people every month (almost 2 million each year) and causes more than 300 million episodes of malarial illness in over 100 countries. It particularly affects the most vulnerable: children of 5 years of age and under, who account for more than 90 per cent of all deaths from malaria; pregnant women; and people infected with HIV/AIDS. Malaria kills at the rate of one child every 30 seconds in Africa. Malaria is also responsible for 10,000 maternal deaths annually, 10 per cent of low birth weight and 5 per cent of stillbirths in malaria-endemic countries.

15. Integrating malaria prevention activities into measles campaigns was an important development in 2005. A key limiting factor in malaria control in Africa is the short supply of insecticide-treated mosquito nets. The long-lasting treated nets can be used without replacement for an estimated three years, providing continued protection. The main focus therefore has been to increase the distribution of insecticide treated bednets during measles campaigns. The Measles Initiative in Africa targeted Chad, Equatorial Guinea and Togo in 2005 to demonstrate the practicality of providing insecticide treated bednets in conjunction with national campaigns.

16. During 2005 United Nations Foundation/UNFIP developed strategic approaches to solve financial obstacles in developing markets for the purchase of bednets. Working with the American International Group (AIG), the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the World Bank, ExxonMobil and others, risk management tools are being developed that can be applied to insure payment of long-lasting treated nets suppliers for scaling up capacity to meet global demand while reducing supply chain inefficiencies. The expected outcomes are improved product diversification and quality and reduction in delivery delays processes.

17. The United Nations Foundation/UNFIP programme and the Vodafone Foundation are partnering to strengthen United Nations disease surveillance systems. The mechanism under preparation for launch in 2006 is intended to support rapid and accurate information-gathering by the United Nations, which is critical to stopping the spread of epidemic and pandemic diseases, such as avian flu. With the collaboration of the United Nations, NGOs and private sector partners, the United Nations Foundation/UNFIP programme is designed to enhance disease surveillance capabilities with information and communications technologies. WHO piloted the mechanism in 2005 using a new software package that allows health professionals to input the needed data into handheld computers synchronized for sending local data to an accessible central information management system.

B. Women and population

18. In 2005, a total of $2.7 million was approved for projects in the women and population portfolio, bringing the total value of the portfolio to $132.1 million as at 31 December 2005. The portfolio is currently comprised of 62 ongoing projects implemented by 10 United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies. The primary implementing partners in the portfolio are the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF, WHO, UNDP, and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). Other United Nations partners include the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

19. Projects approved in the women and population portfolio in 2005 continued to foster a supportive environment for adolescent girls and women by improving social and economic opportunities, increasing access to reproductive health information and services and reducing gender-based violence. Another area of focus in the portfolio in 2005 was working to increase the capacity of countries to develop and

effectively implement the procurement and supply management of critical drugs and diagnostics for comprehensive HIV/AIDS treatment.

20. Young women in Africa aged 15 to 24 are two and a half times more likely to be infected by HIV/AIDS than young men of the same age. With the rapid spread of the epidemic in Africa, young married girls are now the group most vulnerable to infection by older, sexually active husbands. Therefore, reversing this trend and providing protection for adolescent girls is of critical importance. To address this challenge, the United Nations Foundation and UNFIP are collaborating with the Ethiopian Government, UNFPA, the Nike Foundation, the Population Council and local and international NGOs to highlight the dangers of early marriage through a country-focused advocacy and services initiative in three cities in Ethiopia. In Amhara, the project seeks to protect and support married adolescent girls and unmarried girls at risk of early marriage, while in Addis Ababa and Bahir Dar, the project seeks to protect and support vulnerable migrant girls at risk of exploitation.

21. The United Nations Foundation/UNFIP initiative entitled "Meeting the reproductive health needs of tsunami-affected women" was developed in response to the earthquake and subsequent tsunami of December 2004. This project, funded by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the United Nations Foundation, seeks to provide basic reproductive health and safe motherhood services to the most affected areas of Nanggröe Aceh Darussalam province in Indonesia. As part of this project, UNFPA was able to support the re-establishment of these critical services in the province's hospitals.

22. In another tsunami relief initiative in Sri Lanka, funded by the Zonta International Foundation, UNFPA is working to reduce and prevent violence against women. UNFPA is assisting the Sri Lankan Government at the national, district and local levels to establish mechanisms to increase the security of women and girls and limit or eliminate the situations that put them at risk. The project also aims to support measures to change knowledge, attitudes and behaviours that lead to violence against women.

23. The United Nations Foundation/UNFIP project entitled "Prevention of gender-based violence among Sudanese refugees in Chad" was developed in response to the humanitarian crisis in and around Darfur, Sudan. The project, funded by the Zonta International Foundation and managed by UNFPA, seeks to support the prevention of gender-based violence in the Oure Cassoni camp, which is the northernmost and second largest of the Sudanese refugee camps in eastern Chad. The project also aims to reduce the stigmatization that victims of sexual assault suffer while raising awareness in the camp of the negative impacts that gender-based violence has on women, their families and the wider community.

24. In another United Nations Foundation/UNFIP initiative, WHO is working to increase the capacity of countries to procure and manage the supply of critical HIV/AIDS drugs and diagnostics. The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the World Bank Multi-Country HIV/AIDS Program for Africa provide grants to countries for the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, but the lack of capacity of countries to effectively develop and implement the procurement and supply management component is often an obstacle to making these grants available to countries. To address this problem, WHO will provide the necessary technical assistance.

C. Environment

25. The two principal funding priorities in the environment area are biodiversity, and sustainable energy and climate change. The overall environment portfolio since 1998 is valued at $167.3 million, of which $79.7 million is for biodiversity and $56.3 million for sustainable energy and climate change. The balance, $31.3 million, is for grants outside the two programme frameworks. The total amount programmed in 2005 was $10.1 million for 18 projects.

1. Biodiversity

26. The quickest grant-giving facility in the world to support urgent conservation needs has been established to address immediate threats to globally important biodiversity sites. World Heritage natural sites represent the world's pre-eminent areas of biodiversity and the continued identification of new sites and protection of existing ones are key parts of the global community's strategy for conservation. Partnering with UNESCO and Flora and Fauna International, the United Nations Foundation is providing funding for a major new initiative to pilot a rapid response facility that can deploy timely funding and technical assistance to address threats and emergencies affecting World Heritage sites.

27. The rapid response facility aims to (a) provide bridging funds in places where longer-term funding is being sought, (b) move funds quickly to respond to emergency situations in World Heritage natural sites, and (c) catalyse innovative financing mechanisms as part of long-term support programmes.

28. The facility will be tested over the next two years. It is designed to make small grants in the range of $5,000 to $30,000 and to deliver the funds within three weeks of the date the request is received.

2. Sustainable energy and climate change

29. India's expanding solar industry has a potential market that includes 65 per cent of rural households without access to a reliable electricity supply. The main objective of the UNEP India Solar Loan Programme, formally launched in April 2003 with funding from the United Nations Foundation and the Shell Foundation, is to help national banks, including Canara, Syndicate and Grameen Banks, to develop lending portfolios targeted to solar home systems in poorly supplied regions in southern India. By March 2005, the project had financed 14,000 solar home system loans (against an initial two-year target of 5,000 loans), through more than 2,000 participating bank branches. If the current momentum continues, the project will finance over 20,000 solar home systems over three years, making it one of the largest such loan programmes in the developing world.

30. Major programme achievements include (a) having catalysed the creation of a sustainable credit market, driven by commercial market dynamics for financing solar home systems, exceeding its stated target of loans by 180 per cent; (b) having achieved more than a 50 per cent share of the total solar home system market in two states of southern India; (c) the participation of 2,076 bank branches, mostly located in rural areas, that now offer solar home system loans as a direct result of the programme; and (d) replicability (in 2005, two new loan programmes were launched by the United Nations Environment Programme in Tunisia and Morocco for the solar thermal market).

31. China has a well-established solar water heating industry with over 1,000 factories and a market of $1 billion. However, the long-term market development faces serious challenges that include (a) the highly variable quality of products and services; (b) the emergence of unhealthy market competition due to the lack of appropriate standards and effective regulations; and (c) a failure to capture the market opportunities and synergies that exist between the solar water heating industry and the booming residential building industry. To help address these challenges, the "Improvement and expansion of solar water heating technology" project, initiated in 2002 by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in partnership with Chinese counterpart organizations, seeks to expand the use of solar energy for water heating in China by integrating high-quality solar thermal technology into attractive and cost-effective building designs. The project activities focus on strengthening capacity within the building industry for the integration of solar water heating technology into new residential construction. Integrating systems into new residential buildings is relatively new and involves both solar thermal and construction industries and many government agencies at the national and city level.

32. Major achievements include (a) a new national policy and the related regulatory directives requiring municipal governments to integrate solar water heating systems in city planning and building construction; (b) the promulgation of technical standards and building codes for the integration of solar water heating technology in the construction of new residential buildings; (c) the construction of 12 demonstration buildings covering a total of 387,900 square metres (m^2) of construction area and 12,000 m^2 of installed solar panels; (d) the leveraging of 680 million yuan ($82 million) from real estate developers, construction and solar water heating industries for the construction of demonstration buildings and other project activities; and (e) a comprehensive assessment of solar thermal technology applications worldwide, including technical, environmental and economic analysis prepared in English and Chinese.

3. Other notable initiatives

33. The synthesis report on the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment was a landmark study released in March 2005, conducted by 1,300 experts from 95 countries and co-financed by the United Nations Foundation, among other donors. The report reveals that approximately 60 percent of the ecosystem services that support life on Earth have been significantly degraded or are being used unsustainably. The study stated that any progress achieved in addressing the goals of poverty and hunger eradication, improved health and environmental protection is unlikely to be sustained if most of the ecosystem services on which humanity relies continue to be degraded.

34. The Coca-Cola Company and the United Nations Foundation, together with UNFIP, forged a partnership with UNDP in support of community-based water and sanitation reconstruction efforts in tsunami-affected areas of Thailand, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and the Maldives. $2.1 million in funds were provided by The Coca-Cola Company and the United Nations Foundation, including $50,000 in contributions from Coca-Cola employees and affiliates. In addition, The Coca-Cola Foundation Indonesia provided $300,000 in parallel funding to support a team of professional hydrogeologists to survey and map freshwater supplies in the north-eastern tip of Banda Aceh. The Coca-Cola Company also "loaned" one of its Asia-based managers

to the UNDP regional centre in Bangkok for one year to support these partnership efforts across the region. The projects are aligned with government priorities and local community needs and build upon ongoing United Nations tsunami recovery efforts in each country. The projects all support the goal and approach of "building back better" after the tsunami and the activities are being designed and implemented in close partnership with local authorities and community leaders to ensure local relevance, ownership and sustainability.

D. Peace, security and human rights

35. The peace, security and human rights portfolio has focused primarily on funding United Nations supported programmes related to recovery from natural disasters, including increasing the United Nations disaster response capacity, strengthening good governance and the rule of law, and the promotion of human rights. A total of $3.6 million was approved in 2005 for three new and two ongoing projects, bringing the total value of this portfolio to $51.6 million as at 31 December 2005.

36. In the area of human rights, the United Nations Foundation provided funds to respond to the high number of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations peacekeeping personnel in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations, as the implementing partner, developed model guidance and training materials.

37. In the area of good governance and the rule of law, the United Nations Foundation provided support to the International Court of Justice to conduct a forum for senior legal advisers on how to streamline the procedures pertaining to the jurisdiction and proceedings of and access to the Court.

38. The United Nations Foundation continues to support a project of the Department of Political Affairs to strengthen democratic governance in Latin America. With the overall goal of developing a regional strategy for reform of the security sector, this project focuses on aspects such as cooperative security policies, confidence-building and civilian leadership of the armed forces.

39. The United Nations Foundation channelled support through UNDP to provide immediate relief to the victims of the earthquake on 8 October 2005 in Pakistan. These funds contributed to the United Nations effort to provide transitional shelters for the victims affected by the earthquake.

40. Further, the United Nations capacity to efficiently respond to natural disasters was strengthened by a joint effort of the World Food Programme and the United Nations Foundation. Through this cooperation, the United Nations will create a communications system that will deliver critical information to the humanitarian community in a timely manner by delivering emergency alerts by e-mail and short message service (SMS) to registered users in the occurrence of a natural disaster.

E. Strategic initiatives

41. The United Nations Foundation supported 23 projects and activities consistent with other priorities of the Secretary-General, totalling $10.5 million in 2005, bringing the total value of that portfolio to $26.1 million as at 31 December 2005.

Grants in this portfolio also supported activities in capacity-building, microcredit and efforts to sensitize the public to the work of the United Nations.

42. In an effort to raise public awareness of United Nations projects and activities, the United Nations Foundation combined efforts with the Department of Public Information and UNDP. The funds were used to engage a range of media outlets, including television and radio, to cover topics related to the Millennium Development Goals and the work of United Nations agencies.

43. In the light of the importance of microcredit in eradicating poverty, the United Nations Foundation provided funding in 2005 for the Global Microentrepreneurship Awards programme. The grant was used by the United Nations Capital Development Fund to raise awareness about microfinance, enhance existing microfinance programmes and contribute to the attainment of the poverty-reduction targets of the Millennium Development Goals. By recognizing the accomplishments of the winning microentrepreneurs and by coordinating events that capture media attention, the project aims to change public perception of the poor from unfortunate victims to potential entrepreneurs capable of making valuable economic contributions to their communities.

F. Support to emergency response

44. Mention has already been made in the programme sections of the present report of activities that were focused on providing assistance to victims and survivors of the Indian Ocean tsunami and the earthquake in the Azad Jammu, Kashmir and northwest province areas of Pakistan. In summary, a total of fifteen projects with a value of $98.1 million were approved to support a range of recovery and rehabilitation activities, including water and sanitation needs, humanitarian early warning, coordination and community-based recovery, reproductive health needs of tsunami-affected women, environmental sustainability and capacity-building at the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

45. Following news of the two disasters, the United Nations Foundation immediately responded by allocating $5 million to the tsunami and $1 million to the earthquake in support of the emergency and reconstruction efforts. With this as seed funding, the Foundation worked to engage its major donors as well as some new partners. The United Nations Foundation also leveraged significant partner funding by expanding its fiduciary role in partnerships with organizations such as the American Red Cross and other charitable and commercial entities and by facilitating direct contributions from the general public. Considerable third-party funding from the Bush/Clinton Tsunami Fund helped support the UNDP Adopt-An-Island initiative, and Synergos Institute, the Bloomberg Foundation, and the International Community Foundation made it possible for the United Nations Foundation and the Office of the Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery to transparently account for and publicize the United Nations utilization of funds for tsunami relief.

46. Third-party funding supported UNDP and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs tsunami-related activities, such as community-based recovery programmes and the UNDP Emergency Response and Transitional Recovery Programme for Indonesia. The numerous donors included: the India Development and Relief Fund, Pride in India Tsunami Grassroots Funding, the Asia Society, the Council on Foundations — Family Foundations, Network for Good and the United

Nations Foundation Tsunami Fund. Funds provided by the Times of India foundation, the American India foundation and the Ford Foundation were used to promote livelihood and environmental sustainability in the region. Through the support of the Coca-Cola Company, communities have taken innovative steps to meet sustainable water and sanitation needs. The United Nations Foundation partnered with the Wilma and Flora Hewlett Foundation and Zonta International Foundation to support the UNFPA emergency response focused on the reproductive health needs of women living in tsunami-affected areas. Collaboration with Vodafone helped to establish the World Food Programme (WFP) Humanitarian Early Warning System.

47. With respect to the earthquake in Pakistan, the United Nations Foundation, in collaboration with various partners, provided financial assistance to UNDP and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to support regional coordination efforts and provide transitional shelter to families affected by the earthquake. The United Nations Foundation also contributed to local NGOs and community efforts in Pakistan and funding was awarded for regional coordination in India and Afghanistan.

G. Monitoring and evaluation/programme review

48. At the outset of the United Nations Foundation/UNFIP partnership, approximately 600 grant proposals were received per annum from across the United Nations system. Those funded proved successful and encouraged the partnership to increase focus on key central problems as well as to expand efforts for mobilizing potential external partners who could join in supporting United Nations causes, including achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

III. The United Nations Democracy Fund

49. On 4 July 2005, the Secretary-General announced the creation of UNDEF at the Syrte African Union summit. The 2005 World Summit reaffirmed democracy as a universal value while indicating that there is no single model of democracy, that it does not belong to any country or region. It resolved to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations to assist Member States upon their request in democracy-building matters and welcomed the establishment of a democracy fund at the United Nations.

50. Financial support to UNDEF from a total of 16 countries amounted to $41 million. In consultation with both government and agency representatives, UNFIP is developing the terms of reference, the governance arrangements and the programme framework of UNDEF as well as the staffing arrangements.

IV. Facilitating global partnerships for development

51. In its 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, the General Assembly recognized the importance of partnership-building when it called on all countries "to enhance the contribution of non-governmental organizations, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders in national development efforts, as well as in

the promotion of the global partnership for development". Over the past eight years, the United Nations Foundation and UNFIP have together developed a myriad of partnerships, collaborations and coalitions that have engaged dozens of corporations and organizations and thousands of individuals in the work of the United Nations.

52. The partnership with the United Nations Foundation has enabled UNFIP to evolve into the partnership office of the United Nations. It provides advisory and facilitation services to United Nations system organizations and a one-stop shopping centre for potential external partners with the United Nations. UNFIP activities include providing advice to United Nations offices, funds, programmes and specialized agencies on developing public-private partnerships, building capacity and expertise to engage others and facilitating new contacts and matching interests in operational activities. Advocating on behalf of United Nations goals and objectives, UNFIP is a gateway for companies, foundations, civil society organizations and private individuals interested in achieving United Nations goals and objectives in partnership with the United Nations. By the end of 2005, UNFIP had fielded over 400 substantive enquiries from a wide variety of entities interested in partnerships with the United Nations.

53. As part of its efforts to bring new partners, UNFIP co-hosted a summit of leading American and European institutional investors that collectively manage more than $5 trillion in assets at the United Nations to explore the financial risks and opportunities of global climate change and develop appropriate responses. At the conclusion, the summit participants, including an unprecedented grouping of major pension funds, investment firms, United States state treasurers and foundations, joined with the United Nations to back a new call for urgent action by the global investment community to tackle the threat of climate change. A total of 24 leading institutional investors released a 10-point action plan to intensify efforts in providing investors with comprehensive analysis and disclosure about the financial risks presented by climate change. The group also pledged to invest $1 billion for business opportunities that assist in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

54. UNFIP and UNDP facilitated an exploratory mission for Citigroup Private Bank clients to get a first-hand view of social initiatives in Mozambique and South Africa. With the benefit of a small grant by the United Nations Foundation, nine projects focused on children's health received funding, including assistance to children orphaned by HIV/AIDS, small agricultural businesses and basic education and professional training for young people. This initiative was made possible through the alliance of the United Nations Country Teams in Maputo and Pretoria, the United Nations Foundation, UNFIP and Citigroup.

55. UNFIP continued in 2005 its collaboration with the European Foundation Centre, the umbrella organization of European foundations, with a view to engaging them in the work of the Organization. In June 2005, UNFIP took part in the 16th annual general assembly and conference of the European Foundation Centre held in Budapest, on the theme foundations for Europe: making the union work for all citizens. During his opening statement, Dan Brandstrom, president of the Stiftelsen Riksbankens Jubileumsfond and chair of the European Foundation Centre, underscored the member foundations' commitment to the Millennium Development Goals. At the conference, UNFIP organized and chaired a session entitled "The United Nations at 60 — is it ready to reform? What is Europe's role?" which

brought attention to the reform proposals of the Secretary-General seeking to gain the interest and support of foundations.

56. The film and television series entitled "The price of peace" is being produced by renowned French director Romuald Sciora, in collaboration with UNFIP and the Department of Public Information. The television series will focus on the history of the United Nations, with each episode being narrated by a "protagonist" of the time, including some of the former Secretaries-General. The documentary film will focus on the Organization of today and its relevance for the future and is being filmed by François Catonné (winner of a César award for "Indochine"), scored by Jean-Marie Blondel (winner of a César award for "Le pianiste") and edited by Martine Barraque (winner of a César award for "Le dernier metro"). The celebrated choreographer Maurice Béjart will create an original choreographed piece with a "hymn" to the United Nations, and Barbara Hendrix will complete the musical score. The first three episodes of the television series were presented in Geneva in October 2005, as part of the celebrations of the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations. The film will be shown in its entirety at its New York premier in December 2006, and will open the International Festival on Human Rights in Geneva in March 2007.

57. African celebrities, including Senegalese 2005 world music Grammy winner and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Youssou N'Dour, performed at the "Roll back malaria" concert in Dakar on 12 and 13 March 2005. Professor Jeffrey Sachs, corporate leaders and representatives from the health and development community joined the musicians in their goal to raise awareness in the fight against malaria and obtain 100 million bed nets for Africa over the next two years. The concert was partly financed by Sumitomo Chemical Corp (Japan), ExxonMobil (United States of America) and Novartis Pharmaceutical (Switzerland). UNFIP and the United Nations Foundation secured the key involvement of United Nations agencies by supporting the concert with $100,000.

58. UNFIP, the NGO Right to Play and the United Nations New York Office of Sport for Development and Peace co-hosted the first meeting of the international working group on sport for development and peace on 24 May 2005 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Responding to the call at the round-table forum in Athens in August 2004 for an international working group on sport for development and peace, the purpose of the event was to launch an initiative to identify successful projects worldwide and to use that information to prepare a toolkit for Governments on how to incorporate sport for development activities into national policies and international development assistance programmes. Over 70 delegates from 12 countries participated in the event organized by Adolf Ogi, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General, and Right To Play's Chief Executive Officer and four-time Olympic gold medallist Johann Olav Koss. Importance was given to incorporating sport in national and international policies and determining methods to mainstream sport in national programmes and policies. Many examples of innovative partnerships were shared with the group. The Deputy Secretary-General emphasized the role of sport as a tool to reach the Millennium Development Goals.

59. The travel service company Expedia, and the United Nations Foundation created a joint initiative in August 2005, with the support of UNFIP, to promote sustainable tourism and awareness of World Heritage sites and communities around

the world. The partnership will benefit places of cultural and natural interest by offering travel opportunities, consumer education, matching donations and local site economic development projects. Expedia support of this initiative goes beyond financial assistance and planned activities will cover areas in (a) supplying World Heritage destination education; (b) offering World Heritage trips; (c) providing matching donations; and (d) donating employee time and talent.

60. The partnership of the advisory committee of the Vodafone Group Foundation and United Nations Foundation/UNFIP held its first meeting in October 2005, where it was agreed that the partnership would engage in a process to explore two major programmatic areas: emergency communication and health surveillance. The partnership's primary goal is to combine Vodafone funding, knowledge and technology with United Nations Foundation funding, relationships and programmatic expertise to improve access to communications so that the United Nations can increase its capacity to address some of the world's challenges. Access to communications has become central to United Nations missions across the planet and the partnership completed consultations with a diverse group, including 15 United Nations agencies and task forces, a range of experts, a broad spectrum of information and communication technology trade organizations, NGOs and government agencies to identify proposals to present to the committee in 2006. The consultations revealed that the United Nations and NGOs need common communications technologies and knowledge management tools to more effectively and efficiently prepare for and react to both emergency and health crises to save lives threatened by disaster and disease.

V. Advocacy and public affairs

61. Working closely with the Department of Public Information, the United Nations Foundation and its partner organization, the Better World Fund, UNFIP continued its advocacy and public affairs efforts throughout 2005, focusing on raising awareness of the work of the United Nations and on identifying new partners to support the achievement of the goals of the Millennium Declaration.

62. In that regard, UNFIP continued its support for the Millennium Campaign by connecting outside partners with the Millennium Campaign office and routinely suggesting ways that organizations can use one or more of the goals as a framework for activities. UNFIP also works with key umbrella organizations to encourage them to focus on the Millennium Development Goals in their work.

63. In 2005, UNFIP facilitated the publication of articles and speeches by both United Nations staff and outsiders on issues relating to partnerships with the United Nations. Articles have appeared in *Agenda Publishing*, *Alliance Magazine*, *Natural Resources Forum*, *New Century Philanthropy* and the *United Nations Chronicle*. In the second quarter of 2005, UNFIP issued its first newsletter, which was distributed to over 1,000 potential partners to inform them about the possibilities of working with the United Nations.

64. In addition, UNFIP continued its close relations with the Better World Fund, the United Nations Association of the United States of America and the World Federation of United Nations Associations in outreach efforts to the public; redesigned its website to make it more accessible to users in all regions of the world; produced new and updated outreach material; and continued to compile a

database of companies and foundations that have expressed interest in partnerships with the United Nations. The Executive Director of UNFIP also spoke at a number of academic events, philanthropic conferences and meetings of NGOs, to promote partnering with the United Nations.

VI. Funding rounds

65. The cumulative value of the grants approved between 1998 and 2005 by the United Nations Foundation on the recommendation of the UNFIP advisory board amounts to $809.5 million, which has been allocated to fund 376 projects with activities involving 39 United Nations organizations in over 121 countries. The cumulative amount of co-financing from other funding partners amounts to $360.4 million, or more than one third of the total.

66. With the recommendation of the UNFIP advisory board, the United Nations Foundation Board of Directors approved funding at the level of $170.5 million during 2005, of which $46.3 million was approved in the seventeenth funding cycle and $1.5 million in the eighteenth funding cycle, a further $122.7 million was approved between Board sessions. The difference in the level of grant approvals between the seventeenth and the eighteenth funding rounds reflects a new way of operating by the United Nations Foundation. Rather than invest exclusively in projects or programmes, the United Nations Foundation Board decided to consolidate future investments by thematic area and use them core resources to build partnerships and lead advocacy campaigns in support of key themes. Broken down by theme, the grants for the year were distributed as follows: children's health, $143.5 million for five new projects and one ongoing project; population and women, $2.7 million for three new projects; environment, $10.1 million for 18 new projects; peace, security and human rights, $3.7 million for three new projects and one ongoing project; and $10.5 million for 23 new projects under strategic initiatives.

VII. Operational and financial arrangements

67. As the administrative vehicle in the United Nations to support grant-making by the United Nations Foundation, UNFIP is responsible for approving the project documents submitted by United Nations implementing partners, requesting of the United Nations Foundation the related cash contributions that represent the annual requirements of the approved projects and funding the projects, primarily by bank remittances to the implementing partners. A total of $153.1 million in cash contributions from the United Nations Foundation was channelled to implementing partners during the year, bringing the grand total to $757.8 million, representing 94 per cent of the total programme. Although project requirements are in principle funded annually, the United Nations Foundation and UNFIP first determine that the requests relate to projects that are in good standing, in other words, that substantive and financial reports are up-to-date and, as a second condition, that there is a demonstrated need for the funds.

68. UNFIP seeks to fulfil its mandate in a cost-effective manner. Management improvements and streamlined procedures have been introduced every year since inception of the programme to manage an increasing workload within the existing

administrative and technical resources, while addressing the implementation of audit observations in a timely manner.

69. As part of stewardship, monitoring and evaluation activities, emphasis was placed during the year on financial closure of projects. The United Nations Foundation and UNFIP agreed on the procedures for the closure of completed projects, involving substantive and financial reports and identification of unspent balances and interest income, where appropriate. Through this process, a total of $1.2 million was identified from unspent balances in respect of 37 projects and was made available for re-programming by United Nations Foundation management. The United Nations Foundation and UNFIP also agreed on new programme guidelines that, after due consultation with implementing partners, were promulgated in March of 2005 to set the standards for the preparation of project documents. At the focal points meeting of July 2005, it was agreed that future completion dates would be set in June or December (whichever month is sooner) so as to place all project closures in a more predictable pattern. Also, it was agreed that, to reduce transaction costs, unspent balances of $1,000 or less need not be returned to UNFIP when settling balances due on completed projects. These changes will be fully implemented when the UNFIP Handbook on Budget and Finance is updated. As additional changes are foreseen to further streamline the administration of projects, it is now anticipated that the revision will be issued in the second half of 2006.

VIII. Conclusion

70. Since its inception, the United Nations Foundation/UNFIP partnership has had a significant impact on the United Nations system at both the policy and operational levels. Building on the success of the partnership between the United Nations Foundation and the United Nations system, UNFIP collaborates with the United Nations family in the development of innovative programmes and projects in support of, inter alia, the Millennium Declaration, the Millennium Development Goals and the 2005 Summit Outcome. In light of its ability to provide fast-track programme management processes and expeditious administrative support and oversight, UNFIP was tasked with the establishment and executive management of the new fund for democracy-building efforts worldwide, UNDEF.

71. Ted Turner's visionary support of United Nations causes has been a clear demonstration of how public-private partnerships can have a major impact on international development. The United Nations Foundation's extrabudgetary contributions have created opportunities for innovative and collaborative programming and new ways of alliance-building. With the United Nations Foundation challenge grants, new partners have come forward to engage with the United Nations system in support of collective global action.

72. Building on the "problems, not projects" approach, UNFIP has been able to use the catalytic power of the partnership with the United Nations Foundation to engage other partners and increase the level of new resources and technical expertise for the poverty-reduction and peacebuilding work of the United Nations system.

73. Designed as the operational arm of the Office of the Secretary-General in its partnership with the United Nations Foundation, UNFIP has become the facilitator

of new partnerships and alliances with the private sector, foundations and civil society organizations for the operational activities of the United Nations system. It also continues to work with the intergovernmental machinery, including the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, providing substantive support and policy advice on public-private partnerships and on outreach and advocacy activities. UNFIP remains committed to playing a vital role in global partnership development within the Secretariat.

Annex I

Composition of the 2005 United Nations Fund for International Partnerships advisory board

Louise Frechette, Deputy Secretary-General

Munir Akram, President of the Economic and Social Council (Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations)

Christopher Bancroft Burnham, Under-Secretary-General for Management

Lincoln C. Chen, Director, Global Equity Initiative, Harvard University

Jose Antonio Ocampo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

Mary Oakes Smith, fellow, Information Technology for Education and Health, World Bank

Franklin A. Thomas, former President, Ford Foundation

Amina Basho Wali, Chairman of the Second Committee (Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations)

Amir Dossal, (ex officio), Executive Director, United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

Annex II

Projects funded by the United Nations Foundation, by programme area

Programme area	As at 31 December 2004		Approvals in 2005		Total		Contributed by		
	Number of projects	Value (United States dollars)	Number of projects	Value (United States dollars)	Number of projects	Value (United States dollars)	United Nations Foundation	Parallel donors	Other donors
Children's health	56	288 964 541	5	143 486 007	61	432 450 548	155 644 432	47 324 101	276 806 116
Population and women	84	129 408 854	3	2 700 000	87	132 108 854	115 831 716	22 038 737	16 277 138
Environment	107	157 168 646	18	10 101 225	125	167 269 871	120 187 871	226 359 001	47 082 000
Peace, security and human rights	53	47 892 070	3	3 659 915	56	51 551 985	37 255 530	20 445 750	14 296 455
Other	24	15 643 591	23	10 508 936	47	26 152 527	20 244 682	5 703 442	5 907 845
Total	**324**	**639 077 702**	**52**	**170 456 083**	**376**	**809 533 785**	**449 164 231**	**321 871 034**	**360 369 554**

United Nations A/61/190

General Assembly

Distr.: General
11 August 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Item 80 of the provisional agenda*
Maintenance of international security — good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe

Letter dated 26 July 2006 from the Permanent Representatives of Croatia and Montenegro to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to draw your attention to the joint statement of the President of Croatia, Stjepan Mesic, and the President of Montenegro, Filip Vujanovic, of 12 July 2006 on the occasion of the official visit of President Mesic to Montenegro (see annex).

We would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, under item 80 of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Mirjana **Mladineo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Nebojša **Kaluđerović**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Montenegro to the United Nations

* A/61/150

06-46078 (E) 140806

Annex to the letter dated 26 July 2006 from the Permanent Representatives of Croatia and Montenegro to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

STATEMENT
OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
AND
THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MONTENEGRO

The Presidents of the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Montenegro, Stjepan Mesic and Filip Vujanovic, met on 12 July 2006 in Podgorica and, after having exchanged views on the conditions and prospects of the relations between the two countries, and the circumstances in the greater region, in an open and friendly atmosphere,

aware of the fact that the relations between Croatia and Montenegro are an inseparable part of the network of regional cooperation in Southeast Europe,

sincerely dedicated to the acceptance and implementation of European standards and criteria as the basis for bringing the region as a whole closer to united Europe,

determined to establish and develop relations between the independent states of Croatia and Montenegro in the interest of both countries and of all their citizens, and in the interest of lasting stability in the region,

committed to peace, stability and security as the only foundation for the building of the new architecture of relations in this part of Europe,

HAVE JOINTLY STATED:

1. Our strategic goals are peace, stability and security, and we will devote all our energy and action to their achievement.

2. We agree that facing the truth about the past, including the period of disintegration of the former Yugoslav federation, is an imperative condition for successful progress to the future.

3. Only individuals can be held accountable for the war crimes committed on either side, and the pernicious thesis about the collective guilt of individual nations can be countered most efficiently through cooperation with the International Tribunal in The Hague.

4. We are prepared to develop relations between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Montenegro in line with principles of full equality and mutual benefit, proceeding from the awareness that such relations are also significant for the overall political climate in the whole region.

5. In the development of the concept of cooperation between the two countries due attention ought to be paid to the fact that both the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Montenegro are Adriatic and Mediterranean countries.

6. Democracy and European standards and criteria are the only basis for the establishment of relations between the two states appropriate to the present moment and for laying lasting foundations for such relations in the time ahead.

7. We want to develop our relations with all neighbouring countries in a good neighbourly spirit and a spirit of non-interference in their internal affairs. We will consistently oppose every attempt to resolve open issues in relations between states by encroaching upon territories of other states.

8. Democracy, as our continuous commitment, can only be built successfully by consistent respect of human and minority rights. The legitimate concern for the members of the ethnic minorities, Croats in Montenegro and Montenegrins in Croatia, must never serve as a pretext for turning minorities into a tool serving the achievement of particular goals of the state of their parent nation.

9. Cooperation between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Montenegro will be focused on meeting and promoting the interests and requirements of all the citizens of the two states. Such cooperation, including cooperation realized through joint appearances in international organizations and third markets, shall not be levelled against of any third country or group of countries.

10. Membership in European and Euroatlantic integrations is the strategic goal of both states. The Republic of Montenegro supports the Republic of Croatia, which is negotiating as a candidate country its accession to the European Union. Within the scope of its policy of mutual assistance and support the Republic of Croatia is prepared to share with the Republic of Montenegro its experience acquired in the achievement of these foreign policy priorities.

This Statement has been drawn up in two copies, one in the Croatian and one in the Montenegrin language, both having the force of the original.

Podgorica, 12 July 2006

United Nations A/61/191

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 August 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session

Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the sixty-first session

Observer status for the Collaborative Intergovernmental Scientific Research Institute in the General Assembly

Note verbale dated 21 July 2006 from the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to request, in accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of a supplementary item entitled "Observer status for the Collaborative Intergovernmental Scientific Research Institute in the General Assembly".

The Collaborative Intergovernmental Scientific Research Institute is an intergovernmental institution whose objective is the enhancement of international cooperation through the transfer of sustainable technology, especially in the field of food security and water sanitation, in addition to applied scientific research and inter-university coordination.

Its subsidiary, the Intergovernmental Spirulina Programme (in extenso Intergovernmental Institution for the Use of Micro-alga Spirulina against Malnutrition), focused on the use of algal biomasses to combat food crisis, was granted observer status with the Economic and Social Council and its functional bodies and commissions by Council decision 2003/212 of 5 March 2003.

According to rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum (annex I) on the nature of the Institute and a related draft resolution (annex II) are attached to the present letter.

The Permanent Mission of Iraq has further the honour to request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

06-45362 (E) 040806

Annex I

Explanatory memorandum

The Collaborative Intergovernmental Scientific Research Institute (CISRI) is an intergovernmental organization set up by multilateral agreement, namely the Free Agreement for Cooperation in Scientific Research and Humanitarian Use of Micro-alga Spirulina as Food.

The Agreement has been duly signed by a number of countries, including Benin, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Italy, Madagascar and Sao Tome and Principe, and agreed to by the Dominican Republic and Somalia and a number of intergovernmental organizations, and it has been registered with the United Nations *Treaty Series* pursuant to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Since the inception of its activity the organization has established, especially through its subsidiary Spirulina programme, a wide series of operational contacts with numerous Governments, intergovernmental organizations such as the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and several United Nations specialized bodies.

The structure of CISRI comprises a secretariat with executive functions, a General Council with coordinative responsibility and a subsidiary programme, the Intergovernmental Institution for the Use of Micro-alga Spirulina against Malnutrition (Intergovernmental Spirulina Programme).

The subsidiary programme was granted observer status with the Economic and Social Council and its functional bodies and commissions by Council decision 2003/212 of 5 March 2003, in view of the interest stimulated by its specific technical competence. It advocates for food micro-algae (especially *Spirulina platensis*, which is very rich in proteins, vitamins and macro-nutrients) to be added to ordinary food and enhance nutritional security in least developed countries, and promotes the utilization of new protein and vitamin sources.

That programme represents an important activity of the CISRI organization and it is directly administered by the CISRI secretariat, thus possessing operational autonomy. The CISRI secretariat, in fact, has overall competence over the internal subsidiary bodies and related commissions, such as the Commission for Sustainable Development and the Commission for Renewable Fuels, and has the function of a monitoring platform for integrating and harmonizing the various activities in the field of international cooperation, appropriate technologies and scientific research and for ensuring the relevant transfer of technical skills and competences to the member States, through the utilization of information technology and communication of the highest standards.

For the purpose of achieving the optimal level of effectiveness and interaction with the United Nations and allowing CISRI to contribute to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals through the work of a Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations, it would be appropriate to consolidate the relationship between CISRI and the General Assembly on a structured and regular base.

The granting of observer status would undoubtedly contribute to that aim, also promoting a more efficient and flexible diffusion of appropriate technologies and sustainable research throughout the States Members of the United Nations.

Annex II

Draft resolution

Observer status for the Collaborative Intergovernmental Scientific Research Institute in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Collaborative Intergovernmental Scientific Research Institute,

1. *Decides* to invite the Collaborative Intergovernmental Scientific Research Institute to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.

United Nations A/61/191/Add.1

General Assembly

Distr.: General
7 September 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session

Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the sixty-first session

Observer status for the Collaborative Intergovernmental Scientific Research Institute in the General Assembly

Note verbale dated 21 July 2006 from the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Addendum

Add the following sponsors to the request for the inclusion of the supplementary item in the agenda of the sixty-first session contained in document A/61/191:

Permanent Mission of the Gambia to the United Nations

Permanent Mission of Guinea to the United Nations

Permanent Mission of Honduras to the United Nations

06-49331 (E) 080906

United Nations A/61/192

General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 August 2006
English
Original: Spanish

Sixty-first session

Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the sixty-first session

International Year of Reconciliation, 2009

Letter dated 4 August 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request, pursuant to rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the sixty-first session of a supplementary item entitled "International Year of Reconciliation, 2009".

Pursuant to rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I attach an explanatory memorandum, which highlights the importance of this topic and the need for its careful examination by the General Assembly of the United Nations (see annex I), together with a draft resolution (see annex II).

In the light of the special significance of the proposed item, which is related to numerous aspects of the work of the General Assembly, I should also like to request that the item be examined directly in plenary session, rather than being referred to one of the Main Committees.

(*Signed*) Mario H. **Castellon Duarte**
Alternate Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of Nicaragua to the United Nations

06-45680 (E) 090806 090806

Annex I

International Year of Reconciliation, 2009

1. Rationale

It has become a tradition in the international community to dedicate each year to a particular issue or cause with the aim of raising public awareness about the matter.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) appealed to the United Nations to proclaim 1995 as the International Year of Tolerance; the Islamic Republic of Iran proposed and received the support of the international community for the proclamation of 2001 as the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations; UNESCO once again gained the support of the General Assembly of the United Nations for the proclamation of the year 2000 as the International Year for the Culture of Peace; and a group of Nobel Peace Prize laureates, including Nelson Mandela and Rigoberta Menchú, supported by UNESCO, sought and achieved the proclamation of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010. In September 2005, the General Assembly received midterm reports from more than 600 civil society organizations on progress under the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, encouraging the strengthening and expansion of activities aimed at building a culture of peace in the world, especially in the remaining five years of the decade.

Mainline Christian churches have undertaken important initiatives in the area of reconciliation among religions. Examples include the organization by the Roman Catholic church of an interreligious meeting of representatives of the Jewish, Islamic and Christian faiths in Jerusalem in 2000. When the World Council of Churches celebrated its "Jubilee Anniversary" in 1998, marking the 50th anniversary of its creation, it welcomed and expressed support for many initiatives of this type. And in 2001, the Council launched the Decade to Overcome Violence: Churches Seeking Reconciliation and Peace, 2001-2010.

We understand reconciliation to be a profound process of coming together by parties in conflict, a process which leads to the recognition of the Other in their differences, interests and values and which entails the repair of the damage or the injustice that caused the rupture in the society or between the nations in question. Reconciliation also implies the creation of institutions capable of establishing a new type of relationship, as well as the promotion of a new culture that will ensure the irreversibility of peace.

This proposal aims to foster the creation in the world of an enabling environment for reconciliation activities and initiatives at the various levels of human society: between States; between Governments and their citizens; between religions; between the North and the South; between cultures, genders, ethnic groups, generations and individuals; and between humans and the environment.

The proposal seeks to bring to bear the attention, thoughts, feelings and actions of men and women, both within and outside power structures, to achieve a favourable climate for concrete action that will make reconciliation processes a reality.

We believe that this first decade of the new century and millennium, with its heavy burden of violence and despair, is a signal moment and a propitious one to put forward such an initiative. Indeed, humanity is yearning for new signs of hope heralding a fundamental change in the direction of the events that we are witnessing today.

From the perspective of a country such as mine, in a region such as Central America, which endured long years of armed conflict that had a severe impact on all social relationships, reconciliation is a necessity and an essential condition for building a firm and lasting peace.

Many countries and regions of the world have lived through and are continuing to live through situations of conflict, marked by varying degrees of violence, which have created clashes and schisms in societies at various levels: internally, nationally and internationally. At the same time, a rupture has occurred in the relationship between man and nature. Reconciliation is thus necessary and urgent.

2. Actions to be promoted

While an infinite number of actions might be promoted, and any action taken will have to be adapted to the realities of each society, we should like to suggest, by way of example, the following possible initiatives:

Between Governments and citizens: amnesty for political prisoners, programmes to eradicate critical poverty.

Between States in conflict: measures to foster trust, ceasefires, negotiations and other means of settlement, lifting of sanctions, embargoes, etc.

Between genders: programmes to eradicate violence against and promote equal rights for women.

Between generations: programmes to promote respect for and recognition of the rights and specific needs of children and young people and of older persons.

Between humans and nature: promotion through educational systems and the communications media of environmental education and activities to encourage environmental conservation and the development of ecological awareness.

Between the North and the South: initiatives for total or partial forgiveness by the countries of the North of the debt of the poorest and least developed countries of the South.

Between religions, ethnic groups and cultures: systematic programmes aimed at promoting tolerance, dialogue, knowledge, exchange and understanding between different groups, and reparation for the injustice that indigenous peoples have suffered in relation to their lands and cultures.

The proclamation of 2009 as the International Year of Reconciliation will afford great opportunities for Governments, governmental and non-governmental organizations and all of civil society to plan and carry out cultural, educational, social and even political programmes in order to bring about true reconciliation between parties in conflict.

The United Nations, as a multidisciplinary forum and focal point that brings together the efforts of all countries, is in a position to play a major role in achieving common objectives through the activities undertaken during the International Year of Reconciliation, 2009.

Annex II

Draft Resolution

International Year of Reconciliation, 2009

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the Charter of the United Nations, including the purposes and principles contained therein, and in particular those of saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war, bringing about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to the breach of the peace, and practicing tolerance and living together in peace with one another as good neighbours, thus developing friendly relations among nations and promoting international cooperation to resolve international economic, social, cultural and humanitarian issues,

Recognizing that reconciliation processes are particularly necessary and urgent in countries and regions of the world that have suffered or are suffering situations of armed, social, cultural, economic or other conflicts that have affected and divided societies in their various internal, national and international facets,

Recognizing that many of the activities of the United Nations system in general and the international community as a whole to support peacekeeping and peacebuilding, conflict prevention, disarmament, sustainable development, the promotion and protection of human rights and dignity, democracy, the rule of law and governance, inter alia, lead to the initiation and development of reconciliation processes,

Aware that dialogue among opponents from positions of respect and tolerance is an essential element of peace and reconciliation,

Bearing in mind the active and committed role that the media should play in reconciliation processes,

Convinced that the declaration of an International Year of Reconciliation at the beginning of the first decade of the new Millennium will provide the international community with the opportunity to pursue, with the active involvement of all stakeholders, efforts to develop reconciliation processes, which are necessary to and a condition for the establishment of firm and lasting peace,

1. *Expresses* its steadfast determination to pursue reconciliation processes in those societies that are affected and/or divided by armed, economic, social or cultural conflicts;

2. *Decides* to proclaim 2009 the International Year of Reconciliation;

3. *Invites* concerned Governments and international and non-governmental organizations to support reconciliation processes among affected and/or divided societies and to plan and implement adequate cultural, educational and social programmes to promote the concept of reconciliation, including holding conferences and seminars and disseminating information about the issue, and to inform the Secretary-General of their respective activities;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a preliminary report for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-second session and a final report for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session.

United Nations A/61/193

General Assembly

Distr.: General
11 August 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session

Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the sixty-first session

A proactive role for the United Nations in maintaining peace and security in East Asia

Letter dated 10 August 2006 from the representatives of Belize, the Gambia, Honduras, Malawi, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Nicaragua, Palau, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands, Swaziland and Tuvalu to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instruction of our respective Governments, we have the honour to request, pursuant to rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly of a supplementary item entitled "A proactive role for the United Nations in maintaining peace and security in East Asia". Pursuant to rule 20, we attach an explanatory memorandum (annex I) and a draft resolution (annex II).

We have the honour to request also that this item be considered under the heading "Maintenance of international peace and security".

(*Signed*) Janine Elizabeth **Coye-Felson**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of Belize to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Crispin **Grey-Johnson**
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the Gambia to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Ivan **Romero-Martinez**
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Honduras to the United Nations

06-46456 (E) 160806

(*Signed*) Brown Beswick **Chimphamba**
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Malawi to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Alfred **Capelle**
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Marshall Islands
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Marlene **Moses**
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Nauru to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Eduardo J. **Sevilla Somoza**
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Nicaragua to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Stuart **Beck**
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Palau to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Carlisle **Richardson**
Charge d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of Saint Kitts and Nevis to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Margaret Hughes **Ferrari**
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Domingos Augusto **Ferreira**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of Sao Tome and Principe to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Collin **Beck**
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Solomon Islands to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Phesheya Mbongeni **Dlamini**
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Swaziland
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Enele Sosene **Sopoaga**
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Tuvalu to the United Nations

Annex I

Explanatory memorandum

A proactive role for the United Nations in maintaining peace and security in East Asia

In the light of the reform of the United Nations, all Members should cooperate with each other in enhancing the United Nations role in promoting peace and security. "Today, more than ever before, threats are interrelated and a threat to one is a threat to all." Indeed, peace and security in East Asia directly affect people's lives and property in the region, and are also closely related to international security and development. Recent developments in the region indicate that some of the area's problems and disputes have been escalating, which might have a serious impact on regional peace and stability. The United Nations, therefore, should adopt necessary measures to strengthen cooperation among all countries in this region in the fields of security, politics, the economy, culture and the environment. Such action would help to effectively resolve the existing problems and disputes, eradicate the roots of tension, and remove threats to regional peace and security deriving from those problems and disputes. The reasons for action are as follows:

1. **Sources and threats of conflict in East Asia still exist**

Rapid economic and trade development in East Asia has depended upon peace in the region, and whether or not growth continues relies heavily upon the maintenance of peace and security. However, long-standing potential threats to East Asian peace and security, which include such issues as ethnic tensions, historical hatred and territorial disputes, have not been properly removed, and some of them have openly surfaced. In addition, there are new factors for potential conflict and other non-traditional threats to security, such as competition for energy and other resources, terrorism and environmental degradation, which could trigger regional political confrontations and even military conflicts. While these are causing much uncertainty in East Asia, what concerns us more is that multilateral cooperation mechanisms in the region play only a very limited role in security issues, and have no function with regard to collective military security. Hence the region cannot cope effectively with the ever more complicated security challenges.

Regional flashpoints, whether it be the nuclear crisis in the Korean peninsula or the missile threat in the Taiwan Strait, are likely to deteriorate. On 15 July 2006, the Security Council adopted resolution 1695 (2006) to express its concern over the potential threat that weapons of mass destruction and missile tests represent for peace, stability and security both in the Korean peninsula and beyond. A similar missile threat that exists in the Taiwan Strait also deserves the equal attention of the United Nations. The People's Republic of China has deployed more than 800 missiles aimed at Taiwan, a number that continues to increase by around 100 missiles per year. This kind of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, missile deployment or test only worsens regional tensions. The United Nations should take necessary preventive and proactive measures to stop the current situation in the Taiwan Strait from deteriorating.

2. **Security in East Asia is closely linked to world peace**

Over the past few years, East Asia has witnessed some of the world's most vigorous economic development. There are 2 billion people living in the region, accounting for approximately one third of the world's population. The GDP of countries in this region accounts for one fifth of global GDP, and trade volume accounts for 20 per cent of the world total. Therefore, continued stable development in East Asia is beneficial not only to people's welfare in the region but also to prosperity and development around the world. However, the arms race that started in East Asia during the cold war continues into the twenty-first century, and East Asia is currently seeing one of the most rapid increases in military expenditure in the world. From 1988 to 2005, military budgets in East Asian countries increased by an average of 71 per cent, compared to an average decrease of 4 per cent in the world for the same period. In violation of the norms of nuclear non-proliferation, the nuclear weapon programmes in the Korean peninsula have caused alarm in countries of this region. The fact that the military budget of China has seen double-digit growth for 18 consecutive years, and that it exports military and related technology to other countries, is causing grave security concerns for neighbouring countries. China's militarization has created an arms race in the East Asian region that continues to escalate.

With the combined advance of both military and economic modernization, peace and development in East Asia have an increasingly significant impact on global politics, economics and security. In a time of increasing interdependence among East Asian countries, enhancing their common interests and solving disputes through peaceful measures and dialogue are important issues that are not only consistent with each individual country's national interests, but are closely associated with security and development internationally. Based upon this consideration, the United Nations should pay close attention and take the initiative in improving peace and stability in this region.

3. **Military transparency and confidence-building are important bases for international security**

Military transparency is a crucial cornerstone for building confidence and trust between countries, and helps to reduce mistrust and miscalculation. In view of the present security situation in East Asia, bilateral and multilateral confidence-building mechanisms among countries in this region are restricted in scope and limited in effect. The lack of military transparency in some countries makes security relationships among East Asian countries unstable and uncertain. For example, the opaque nature of military development in the Korean peninsula and China's military expansion are causes for considerable concern and doubt for other countries in the region. Concerned countries have urged China to make its military more transparent, and have emphasized that China should make it clear to other countries how and why it is expanding it military. Considering the regional instability in East Asia, most countries oppose the European Union's attempt to lift its military embargo against China.

The openness and exchange of military intelligence and information are essential in reducing international tensions and preventing international conflicts. In its resolutions 59/87 and 60/64, the General Assembly emphasized that countries should engage in meaningful dialogue to avert conflict, and confirmed that

confidence-building measures contribute to regional stability and peace as well as progress in people's socio-economic conditions. The United Nations, therefore, should be more proactive in encouraging and assisting East Asian countries to promote military transparency and confidence-building measures, thus ensuring that the security dilemmas and miscalculations that can lead to arms races and military conflicts do not transpire.

4. Peaceful means, dialogue and negotiation are necessary for the settlement of disputes

Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations obliges United Nations Member States to resolve disputes peacefully. Article 33 of the Charter stipulates that "the parties to any dispute, the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security, shall, first of all, seek a solution by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means of their own choice". Therefore, any preparations or behaviours that would indicate an attempt to resolve international disputes by non-peaceful means defy the basic principles of the Charter and should be of concern to the international community. In seeking to prevent the use of force in resolving disputes, the United Nations should not only passively assist in avoiding use of force among countries in disputes, but should also actively encourage all countries to enhance mutual understanding and trust through dialogue, negotiation and cooperation. Then, peaceful means to resolve disagreements and disputes among countries can be found. In fact, it has been proved in practice that peaceful means and dialogue are effective methods for resolving disputes and ensuring peace.

The nuclear weapon development programmes and missile launches in the Korean peninsula are potential crises for regional peace and stability in North-East Asia. The international community generally considers peaceful means, such as negotiations, an effective way to resolve the Korean peninsula problem. The fact that the Security Council adopted resolution 1695 (2006) is an expression of the expectation that peaceful means and diplomatic measures can solve this tense situation. Moreover, member countries of the European Union, NATO and the G8 have all delivered statements to express their serious concern about the situation in East Asia and to condemn the recent missile testing in the Korean peninsula for gravely threatening regional security and stability. They have also emphasized the importance of multilateral mechanisms, such as international treaties, regulations and so forth.

Besides the tension in the Korean peninsula, the situation in the Taiwan Strait also deserves the attention of the United Nations. The People's Republic of China has conducted missile tests and deployed missiles along its coast aimed at Taiwan. In addition, China adopted its so-called "Anti-Secession Law" to emphasize that it will employ "non-peaceful means and other necessary measures" to resolve cross-strait disputes. Even its military, the People's Liberation Army, often simulates invasions of Taiwan in order to prepare for resolving Taiwan Strait disputes by war. Such behaviour not only accelerates tension in the Taiwan Strait but also threatens peace and stability in the East Asian region. Many countries, including the United States, Japan and European Union member States, have expressed serious concern and encouraged peaceful means, such as cross-strait dialogue, to resolve disputes. Nevertheless, despite the appeals of many countries for peaceful resolutions to

cross-strait issues, China still refuses to abandon its threat to adopt military means against Taiwan, thereby making the people of Taiwan live in constant fear and threatening regional peace.

On top of this, East Asia has been lacking an effective security cooperation mechanism, with the security environment becoming subject to an ever-increasing diversity of threats to regional peace. To counter this, only through mutual respect and trust can peace, security and common development be secured among all countries. In addition, the United Nations should unanimously adopt effective actions, while encouraging and assisting States in conflict to enter dialogue and conciliation. It should help alleviate tense situations through diplomatic means under the principle of insistence on peaceful settlements without any preconditions.

5. Maintaining peace and security serves as the aim of the United Nations and foundation of development

Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations clearly declares that maintaining international peace and security is one of the major goals of the United Nations. This can be seen from paragraph 1, which proclaims that a purpose of the United Nations is "to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace". Moreover, paragraph 2 states as a purpose: "to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace".

To celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, the 2005 World Summit issued the 2005 World Summit Outcome to express concerns over peace. Subsequently, on 20 December 2005, the General Assembly, acting concurrently with the Security Council, adopted a resolution establishing the Peacebuilding Commission, thereby proving once again that peace is the focal point of the United Nations in this new century. In pursuance of the principles of that resolution, the United Nations has the obligation to adopt the necessary collective measures to prevent and dissolve potential threats to peace and stability in all regions, including East Asia.

As peace and development bring hope for the well-being of all peoples around the world, they represent the two major goals of the United Nations and main topic of contemporary international relations. In the United Nations Millennium Declaration issued in September 2000, Heads of State publicly pledged to take "responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social development, as well as threats to international peace and security". They further clarified that this responsibility "must be shared among the nations of the world". The maintenance of peace is a prerequisite to development, and economic development is the foundation for maintaining world peace. In other words, peace and development complement each other. Therefore, while the United Nations set the promotion of economic prosperity, social development and human rights as the goals of the millennium, it should not ignore its own important role in international security and peace. As we review the international environment, we must acknowledge that all kinds of factors of conflict, such as ethnicity, religion, territory and resources, all form barricades to

06-46456

global economic development. The United Nations therefore should take concrete steps and measures to prevent and dissolve any possible sources of threats to security and peace.

6. **Maintenance of peace in East Asia requires the participation of every country in the region**

International peace is a complete entity and cannot be divided. Each and every country must bear its share of responsibility for stability and prosperity in the East Asian region. During the process of resolving disputes and promoting peace, any attempt to exclude the concerned countries, especially ones in dispute, hinders the settling of disputes between countries as well as the maintenance of peace and security. To assure the security and peace of East Asia, all countries in this region, including Members and non-Members of the United Nations, have the responsibility to fulfil the aims and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and every regulation of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. To settle international disputes in this region, dialogue and negotiation among the countries involved are necessary. The United Nations should, therefore, encourage countries in conflict to settle their disputes via peaceful means, refrain from any use of force or threat of violence, and avoid behaviour inconsistent with the Charter. In addition, for the endeavour of promoting the security, peace and stability of the East Asian region, the United Nations should ensure that each member of the region has the chance to participate. Only by this means can the prerequisites for mutual trust and communication among countries be created.

Annex II

Draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that maintaining international peace and security is its principal responsibility,

Observing the goals and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Acknowledging that peace, security, development and human rights relate to and strengthen each other,

Emphasizing that the principle of abstaining from the threat to use force or the use of force, which are inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations in international relations, and the principle that international disputes should be settled through peaceful means must be followed,

Recognizing that the long-existing tense situation and continuing military activities in certain parts of East Asia impede endeavours to increase security and cooperation in the region,

Believing strongly that development within one country and between countries can be achieved only in an environment of peace, security and mutual trust,

Reiterating that broad conflict-preventing measures should be taken to eradicate completely the sources of armed conflict and political confrontation in the East Asian region,

Acknowledging that East Asian regional security cannot be partitioned and closely relates to international peace and security,

Believing firmly that all countries bear the responsibility of making contributions to peace, stability and prosperity in East Asia,

Calling upon countries of the East Asian region to engage in dialogue to increase openness, raise transparency and build trust, and, moreover, believing staunchly that such dialogues and measures may benefit the development of harmony among countries, and may make momentous contributions to the prevention of conflicts,

Encouraging the United Nations to take more constructive action to promote peace, stability, security and development among East Asian countries,

Decides:

(a) To urge East Asian countries to settle disputes through peaceful means and encourage concerned countries to take further steps in military transparency and confidence-building;

(b) To request the Secretary-General to adopt crucial measures, according to real needs, to ease tense situations, and, if necessary, to invite parties in dispute to provide an explanation to the Security Council or General Assembly;

(c) To request the Secretary-General to prepare a report on measures for strengthening security and cooperation in the East Asian region.

06-46456